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KUWAIT

ACTING PRIME MINISTER SUBMITS CABINET'S RESIGNATION

LD221044Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Jan 78 LD

[Excerpts] His highness the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, at 1000 today received at As-Sif Palace Shaykh Jabir al-'Ali, the acting prime minister and minister of information who submitted the following letter to his highness:

When Your Highness was proclaimed amir of the country in accordance with the constitution, I assumed the duties of acting prime minister. I have now discussed with my colleagues the ministers the position of the government in the new era through which our dear homeland is passing following Your Highness' assumption of authority in the country. It was decided that my colleagues and I should submit the resignation of the cabinet to Your Highness. We pray for Your Highness' long life and our homeland's strength and prosperity.

Signed: Yours, Jabir al-'Ali as-Salim as-Sabah, acting prime minister; 22 January 1978.

Cabinet's Resignation Accepted

LD221046Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Jan 78 LD

[Amir's Decree Issued on 22 January]

[Excerpt] We decree the following:

1. The resignation submitted by the acting prime minister is hereby accepted. Each of them will continue to carry out urgent duties of his portfolio pending the formation of the new cabinet.

2. Our decree shall come into force as of its date and shall be published in the official gazette.

Signed: Amir of Kuwait Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah at As-Sif Palace, 22 January, 1978.

SAUDI ARABIA

YASIR 'ARAFAT ARRIVES FOR VISIT 21 JAN

Received by Prince Salman

LD211428Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Yasi 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived in Riyadh this afternoon on a short visit to the kingdom. He was welcomed at the airport by His Royal Highness Prince Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, amir of Riyadh region; Abu Hisham, Fatah's representative in the kingdom; and a number of officials.

Holds Talks With Fahd

JN221557Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1400 GMT 22 Jan 78 JN

[Excerpt] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, met with Saudi Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz yesterday. The meeting was attended by Khalid al-Hasan, Fatah Central Council member. On the Saudi side the meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal and Dr Rashad Fir'awn special adviser to King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

During the meeting talks were held on the various events currently taking place in the Arab region regarding the Palestinian issue in particular and the Arab issues in general. Our radio correspondent has learned that the meeting lasted 2 hours and was cordial, positive and fruitful. During the meeting Prince Fahd reaffirmed the constant and unlimited support of Saudi Arabia for the PLO and the Palestinian people. The correspondent has also learned that the two sides have agreed to continue their discussion of the developments in the area. A second meeting between brother Abu 'Ammar and Prince Fahd is expected to be held in Riyadh today, Sunday.

SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE ARRIVES IN RIYADH

LD221904Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Jan 78 LD

[Text] At 1700 today talks began at the government palace between Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre and His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister. The talks were attended on the Somali side by Higher Education Minister Omar Arteh Ghalib and the delegation accompanying Somali President Barre. On the Saudi side, they were attended by the foreign minister, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, and the private adviser of His Majesty King Khalid, Dr Rashad Fir'awn.

Omar Arteh Ghalib, Somali higher education minister and the official spokesman of the Somali president, stated that at the meeting the cordial relations between the kingdom and Somalia were discussed. The discussion also dealt with the current situation in the area generally and in the Horn of Africa in particular.

Somali President Barre arrived in Riyadh on a (?private) visit to the kingdom.

EXISTENCE OF U.S. MILITARY INSTALLATIONS DENIED

NC201845Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1825 GMT 20 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Riyadh, 20 January--The Royal Court tonight released the following statement: In reporting the statement of a U.S. Defense Department spokesman on the reduction of U.S. arms sales, Israel radio alleged that there are U.S. military installations in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to which this reduction will not apply.

As there are no U.S. military installations in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, this report is a tendentious machination and unfounded.

YEMEN--YAR

FOREIGN MINISTER BRINGS MESSAGES FROM ARAB LEADERS

JN202026Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Jan 78 JN

[Text] YAR Command Council Chairman and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi this evening received the foreign minister, who returned to San'a' today after a tour of several Arab capitals. He conveyed to the brother chairman messages from Saudi Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan and His Excellency Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in reply to the chairman's messages which the foreign minister delivered during his visits to these fraternal countries. He also conveyed a message from PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat.

AL-GHASHMI RECEIVES VISITING SOMALI PRESIDENT

JN191918Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Jan 78 JN

[Excerpts] Somali President His Excellency Mohamed Siad Barre at 1830 today visited his brother YAR Command Council Chairman Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi in his office in the Republican Palace.

They exchanged fraternal greetings and discussed bilateral issues of common concern to the two countries. They also discussed the current Arab situation and the need for contacts among Arab officials to bolster Arab solidarity.

The Somali president made a statement to a SABA' NEWS AGENCY correspondent. He expressed his pleasure at visiting the YAR. He expressed his deep thanks to Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi and the YAR people for the warm welcome accorded him and the delegation accompanying him. He said: We will exchange views with the brother leader on our problems and on Arab and world problems.

Siad Extends Visit

JN201650Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Sana'a', 20 January--It was announced here today that Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre has extended his current visit to San'a' until next Saturday. President Siad Barre arrived in San'a' yesterday on a working visit to the YAR which will last 2 days. He will hold talks with YAR Command Council Chairman Ahmad al-Ghasmi on the developments in the Arab region and the Horn of Africa.

Meets With Al-Ghashmi

JN201730Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, chairman of the Command Council and commander in chief of the armed forces, at 1930 today called on his brother His Excellency Mohamed Siad Barre, president of the Somali Democratic Republic, at his private wing at the Republican Palace. Discussion during the visit centered on a number of topics of interest to the two fraternal countries.

Visits YAR Military Academy

LD211522Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Jan 78 LD/EA

[Summary] President Siad Barre of Somalia, currently on an official visit to the Yemen Arab Republic, inspected the military academy in San'a' this morning. During his visit, President Siad watched a display put on by the academy's thunderbolt detachment, witnessed the cadet's performance on the shooting range and made a comprehensive tour of the academy's departments. Later, Siad visited the national museum in San'a'.

Al-Ghashmi, Siad Exchange Speeches

JN212149Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Jan 78 JN

[Excerpts] At 1700 today, official talks were held at the Republican Palace between the Yemen Arab Republic and the Somali Democratic Republic by Presidents Mohamed Siad Barre and Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi.

At the beginning of the meeting, Al-Ghashmi delivered the following speech: In the name of God the Merciful, the Compassionate: His Excellency President Mohamed Siad Barre, president of the fraternal Somali Democratic Republic; on behalf of the leadership, government and people of the Yemen Arab Republic, I warmly welcome you and the delegation accompanying you, wishing you a good stay among us. This is not the first visit you have paid to this second homeland of yours. I am confident that your visit will strengthen the relations of fraternity, cooperation and understanding between our two brotherly peoples and our two Arab countries in the interests of our Arab nation and our great Arab homeland.

Since our two countries look out on the Red Sea, it is natural that cooperation between them on the one hand and between them and other Red Sea countries on the other continues in order to guarantee the security of the Red Sea, to keep it an area of peace and to safeguard the legitimate rights of its countries. Regarding other subjects of mutual interest, I would like to affirm to you that we are eager for peace to prevail throughout the world. The peace we believe in and are eager for is that peace which is based on justice and self-determination for all peoples who have not yet achieved their freedom.

Our two countries are in agreement regarding the rejection and condemnation of the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories. Hence, we are in agreement regarding the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including their right to self-determination and the Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories.

His Excellency President Mohamed Siad Barre delivered a speech in reply to which he said: Your Excellency Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, Command Council chairman and commander in chief of the Yemeni Armed Forces, allow me to express to you my deep thanks for the warm welcome accorded to me by Your Excellency, state officials and the brotherly Yemeni people.

The conditions through which our Arab region is passing, the challenges it is facing, the fierceness of the Zionist enemy and its determination to achieve its hostile plans against the Arab nation make it incumbent upon us to consolidate and strengthen Arab solidarity because this is the only weapon which we possess to resist our enemy. By mobilizing all our energies we can achieve the aspirations of our Arab nation for liberation and dignity. Therefore, I greet the efforts being exerted by the Yemen Arab Republic to bolster Arab solidarity.

The initiative undertaken by the fraternal Yemen Arab Republic, calling for protecting the security of the Red Sea and keeping it a safe place away from international struggle, was a subject of our admiration and appreciation. In my opinion, peace will not be established in the world, nor in the Arab or African region, without taking into consideration the rights of the Arab peoples in resisting occupation, and as long as there is oppression, colonialism and denial of the human rights to equality and self-determination, there will be no peace at all.

The talks lasted 2 hours.

Siad Leaves Yar

LD221546Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Jan 78 LD/EA

[excerpt] His Excellency President Mohamed Siad Barre, president of the Somali Democratic Republic, left San'a' at 0900 this morning after his official 3-day visit to the Yemen Arab Republic.

Al-Asnaj on Siad's Visit

LD221556Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Jan 78 LD/EA

[Text] Following the talks held by His Excellency President Mohamed Siad Barre, the president of the Somali Democratic Republic, and the delegation accompanying him with his brother Col Ahmad Husayn Al-Ghashmi, chairman of the Command Council and commander in chief of the armed forces, brother 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, the foreign minister, made the following statement:

The visit of His Excellency Mohamed Siad Barre, the president of the Somali Democratic Republic, to the Yemen Arab Republic, which lasted 3 days, was the result of an invitation from his brother Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, chairman of the Command Council and commander in chief of the armed forces. The visit was within the context of moves being made by the two fraternal countries to strengthen and consolidate their traditional bilateral relations and joint cooperation in the economic, cultural and commercial areas, and to implement the agreements concluded between the two countries in this regard.

It was also within the context of working together to restore the spirit of Arab solidarity and its effectiveness in the service of the single Arab destiny, to confront the settlerest Zionist aggression against occupied Arab territory and to achieve the withdrawal of Israel from Arab territory, including Arab Jerusalem, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

The brother foreign minister added that consultations between the two presidents touched on the situation of the region in general, but particularly on the explosive situation in the Horn of Africa and the difficulties and complications surrounding it.

The two sides stressed the importance of applying the principles of the Taizz quadripartite meeting which stipulated that the Red Sea should be a zone of peace and amity, and should be insulated against international conflicts and all forms of foreign interference in the affairs of the region. They also stressed the need for more contacts between the Arab states in the region in order to attain this noble objective.

The two sides held the view that it was necessary to try to solve the existing conflicts in a just and peaceful way through serious dialog between all the parties concerned, so as to end completely the current conflicts and insure security and stability for all the peoples of the region, according to their rights to self-determination.

The brother foreign minister also stated that His Excellency President Siad Barre was extremely touched by the warm reception accorded to him by the Yemeni people and their nationalist government and their leadership.

His Excellency President Siad Barre invited President Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, the chairman of the Command Council and commander in chief of the armed forces, and the prime minister to visit the Somali Democratic Republic. The brothers chairman of the Command Council and the prime minister have both accepted the invitation of His Excellency President Siad Barre to visit Somalia at a date to be determined.

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY ARAB AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETS 21 JAN

NC211250Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Jan 78 NC

[Text] The People's Assembly Arab Affairs Committee met today to discuss the latest developments in the Middle East situation in light of the contacts that have taken place and the statements that have been made since President as-Sadat began his peace initiative. The committee announced absolute support for the steps President as-Sadat is taking to achieve a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab issue. The committee decided to remain in constant session to follow up developments, especially following the important speech which President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat will deliver during this evening's special session of the People's Assembly.

SPECIAL SESSION OF PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY HELD; AS-SADAT SPEAKS

Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic at 1634 GMT on 21 January begins a live broadcast from the Egyptian People's Assembly, where President Anwar as-Sadat is scheduled to deliver a speech.

Assembly Speaker Engineer Sayyid Mar'i announces that the session is open. He adds that tonight's session will end as soon as President as-Sadat leaves the hall. President as-Sadat arrives in the assembly at 1644 GMT. Assembly Speaker Mar'i begins speaking introducing President as-Sadat at 1645 GMT. President as-Sadat begins speaking at 1647 GMT.

Text of As-Sadat Speech

JN211805Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1647 GMT 21 Jan 78 JN/NC

[Speech by President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat to the special session of the People's Assembly--live, broadcast on all Cairo Radio's operating frequencies]

[Text] In the name of God, brothers and sisters, members of the People's Assembly: On 11 November I had the honor of standing on this honorable, democratic platform, and in the speech opening the parliamentary session of the People's Assembly I declared my peace initiative. I said that for the sake of building peace--a permanent and just peace--I was ready to go to the end of the earth. I said that I was even ready to go to the Knessen in Israel.

After this declaration, the whole world spent several days seesawing between feelings of astonishment and bewilderment and between surprise and puzzlement. No one had believed that the president of the greatest Arab country, still in a state of war with Israel, would embark on this historic and grave step--a step which went beyond the imagination of every human being, no matter how devoted he was to the cause of peace. The whole world then became certain and sure that we were not bluffing or maneuvering, that we were not releasing a trial balloon for a political maneuver and that we were not speaking with two tongues.

The whole world became positive and certain that this historic transformation from war to peace, unprecedented in the history of old or recent wars, the world realized with certainty that the Egyptian peace initiative expressed not so much the sense of responsibility on the part of Egypt's president as it expressed the genuine civilization of the great Egyptian people--a people who gave the first light of knowledge to the world and the first lessons in enlightenment for the sake of building mankind and the freedom of man.

Thus, in every part of the world and among the peoples of all the continents, sweeping and overwhelming support from millions of people everywhere came for the titanic Egyptian step--support which has not been matched by any historic event in the later part of the 20th century. This support has been and still is accompanied by the appeal of hearts to heaven that the world will really experience this new dream, this new age which the Egyptian initiative has called for. It is the dream of a just peace, the dream of victory over oneself, the dream in which all hostilities and hatreds will be killed instead of man himself. It is the age of building mankind's happiness through charity and purity and ties of ideas and principles. There can be no happiness for anyone at the expense of the misery of others, as I told the Israeli Knesset. The pens of the civilized world have described this age as the post-Egyptian-initiative world.

If the great Egyptian people have showered me with superb sympathy, great love and huge support such as the leading official must receive from his nation in terms of confidence, support, and sincere partnership in the consequences of the struggle for peace, if the struggling Arab people have expressed their support and backing in a way leaving no room for doubting the maturity of our Arab nation, even in a number of states whose peoples are ruled through the stifling of freedom and terrorism, and if such are the feelings of the Egyptian people and the Arab people, then the responsible honor demands that I should admit here to you that the Israeli people have demonstrated most clearly their great desire to achieve the dream of peace and their firm confidence in the seriousness and sincerity of our historic call that the October war be the last war.

The Israeli people have expressed these feelings, which I appreciate and respect, by all the means of expression. This has greatly and deeply moved me. The official reception accorded us by government officials and politicians in Israel demonstrated every appreciation and respect. I heard more than 20 speeches by various party leaders in the Israeli Knesset. These speeches expressed different opinions concerning the future steps. All were unanimous in appreciation of and high respect for the historic Egyptian initiative and all the ideals, principles and courage manifested by the initiative.

Brothers and sisters, my speech in the name of the Egyptian people and Arab rights before the Israeli Knesset was clear in its structure and objectives and sound in its words and meanings. At the end of this speech I told them and the whole world: I declare that I have not thought of undertaking this initiative on the basis of what can be achieved during the visit, but I have come here to convey a message. I said at the end: God be my witness, I have conveyed the message.

With an open heart and an open mind I presented in my speech all the stark facts. I told them: I have chosen the difficult, in fact, the most difficult way. My people have entrusted me with this sacred mission so all efforts will be devoted to building a lofty edifice for peace instead of building fortresses and bunkers fortified by the missiles of destruction. I called upon every man and woman and said: Let us present a picture of the new man in this part of the world who will serve as an example of the man of this age, the man of peace in every position and place. I called on every man and woman and said: Inform your sons that what has passed is the last of wars and the end of sufferings and what is coming is the beginning of the new life--the life of love, well-being, freedom and peace. I also admit here that I felt that the sons of the Israeli people understood my message, that they blessed my call and that they were placing their hopes with those of the Egyptian people so that love and peace might prevail on our land.

But the question now posed, and which the world wants answered is: What has happened so far? What has been achieved so far now that the Egyptian initiative is almost 3 months old?

You know, brothers and sisters, that I issued my instructions at 1900 last Wednesday evening to Egyptian Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil that the Egyptian delegation immediately return from Jerusalem. I also made an official statement--which was clear, as is our custom, without any distortion--explaining the reasons for the Egyptian decision. How did the situation develop for us to adopt such a decisive decision to break off negotiation in which the United States is taking part and which U.S. President Carter supports with enormous creative effort and which are supported by all the countries of the world apart from one big power, whose subversive ambitions and plots against the aims of peace are known to us all?

How did the developments of the situation lead us to make this decision, when international reaction in the last 2 days and immediately after the announcement have indicated to us the extent of the world's upholding of the Egyptian initiative and its strong and full preparedness to protect it as well as its respectful appreciation of all that Egypt has given for the sake of peace?

I broke off these negotiations after it had been proved to us through successive categorical proofs that the Israeli negotiators at the Cairo conference, at the peace discussions in Ismailia, at the discussions of the Political Committee in Jerusalem and at the discussions of the Military Committee in Cairo--I say it was definitively proved to us at all these discussions--that the Israeli negotiators had planned their stands according to more than one trend. The first trend was to take advantage of the time element. The second trend was to take advantage of our recognition of the importance of Israeli security. These two trends--the attempt to take advantage of the time element and to take advantage of our recognition of Israeli security--rest on a single clear basis, that is, clinging to the old logic of expansionism and total insistence on keeping the occupied territory.

As for the first trend, namely, the attempt to take advantage of the time element, the Israeli side sought to take us into the labyrinths of successive arguments and whirlwinds of discussions revolving around themselves to return again to the starting point. The purpose of all this was to cool down the considerable enthusiasm with which the peoples of the world had supported the steps of the initiative and also to try to cast doubt on the fact that Egypt carries the mission of peace and that Egypt has brought down all the psychological barriers of suspicion, rancor and mutual distrust through the courageous Egyptian decision, which the world has described as the most outstanding event in contemporary history.

Then we heard official Israeli statements that the peace negotiations must continue for 5 years until a solution is found to all the difficult problems. This sounds as if we have just been confronted with the problems which separate us, or as if the issues in the crisis are sudden issues and that the sides to these issues have not had time to go deeply into their ramifications for the past 30 years or more. We also heard from the Israeli leaders, during the official talks and outside these talks, that the two sides needed to develop normal relations between them from now on, before the establishment of peace. This, they said, would help the negotiations to succeed. In other words, they demanded that peace be achieved while land was still occupied and before we reached a peace agreement.

We heard from the Israeli leaders everything to cast doubts on the future. We heard from them the advice that had the look of truth, namely, that we wanted quick results and had no patience. This sounds as if our need for peace is greater than Israel's or as if we are begging for peace without any awareness and at any price from those who hold in their hands the decisions and the determination of the destiny of peace.

During all this, attempts appeared in the media, aimed at a devious objective, to make the peace initiative, which shocked the world, appear as a desire from Egypt because it is beaten by its economic crisis. This sounds as if this initiative were the only solution which would bring Egypt out of its economic difficulties and as if the Israeli economy were not suffering more than the Egyptian economy. Of course, they were supported in this by the Soviet Union and its agents from those who call themselves the rejection front. We did not lose patience. We faced all these maneuvers, which were very far removed from good intentions and sound objectives.

The Egyptian initiative has been the greatest event of this era, as witnessed by the whole world. With this initiative, Egypt is making new history in the Middle East, affecting the destiny of the whole world and transferring it from worry and fear to stability and prosperity. Nobody can deny that the security of the Mediterranean Sea is a pillar for international security on a large scale.

That was the first trend, that is, the attempts to gain time. The second trend was the attempt to exploit our recognition of the importance of Israel's security. By resorting to all the overt methods, which no longer deceive world public opinion, Israel wanted to return to its original designs and expansion and to the theory of imposing security by military force--the theory which the October war destroyed. All this was done under the slogan of Israel's security.

They said that Israel would not accept complete withdrawal from the occupied territories because the 1967 borders threatened Israel's security. They said that it was impossible to accept a Palestinian state and the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people because the new small state of a scattered people, who have no territory or entity, would threaten to destroy Israel.

Afterward they even raised a question which I felt was ironic and could only cause laughter. As the saying goes: The greatest catastrophe makes one laugh. They insisted on keeping the Israeli settlements which they had constructed in occupied areas and were occupied by Israeli citizens--again because evacuating these settlements would endanger the security of Israel. I thought at the beginning that they were joking or trying through these tactics to strengthen their negotiating position, for these are well-known tactics in international politics and in negotiations. However, they turned this peripheral question--which is completely isolated from the questions of military security and which shows their insistence on expansion in the lands of others--into a major issue. Furthermore, they tried to make this question a national issue inside Israel itself and before the Israeli people, taking advantage in this of the psychological composition of this people who emigrated to the land of Palestine and imposed their presence year after year by establishing these settlements until these settlements had become the basis of the existence and continuity of this people.

The question of the Israeli settlements in the occupied areas has escalated to a blatant provocation in order to poison the atmosphere of the talks and even to topple the Egyptian initiative.

What has taken place in the talks since the initiative? You recall, brothers and sisters, that immediately after my return from the peace trip in Jerusalem, I came to you and submitted to your respected assembly a full report on the deliberations that took place in Jerusalem and on the probabilities for the future. I extended the invitation from this platform, your platform, to the Cairo conference. Israel, the United States and the UN secretary general accepted the invitation, and the Cairo conference was held. The convening of the Cairo conference was an initiative on our part, as I told you esteemed persons here and as I explained to our people and to the whole world, to prepare for the Geneva conference and to keep up the momentum of the peace process, instead of leaving the peace process to the mercy of the Soviet Union and Syria to use it as a maneuver. Perhaps you have heard that in his recent journey to the gulf, area, the Syrian president declared to the Arab kings and presidents that the Soviet Union and Syria never intended to go to Geneva.

By extending the invitation to the Cairo conference, we sought not to be at the mercy of anyone and to prepare for the Geneva conference, as I had explained to the U.S. President during my visit last April, namely, that without sound preparation the Geneva conference was destined to fail and that we should not plan to convene it unless we made full preparations for it.

That is why I called for the Cairo conference--so that we could make sound preparation for the Geneva conference. When the other parties did not respond, I declared that we would continue because Egypt's initiative was not aimed and would not be aimed at a separate solution, as the Soviet Union and its agents are alleging. Egypt's initiative is essentially aimed at a comprehensive solution and at establishing peace in the area. The establishment of peace in the area cannot come about without solving the Palestinian problem.

This is why we were not perturbed when the Soviet Union refused to come to Cairo. Neither were we disturbed when it issued its well-known statement with the Syrian foreign minister, who went there to receive instructions. It did not disturb us that this Soviet-Syrian statement said that Egypt was bent on a separate solution. It was as if stupidity, on top of ill intention, governed the Soviet Union's behavior. The Soviet Union, Syria and the Palestinians had said that the first disengagement agreement was a separate solution and the second disengagement agreement was not a separate solution. However, such is spiteful stupidity--the foolish Soviet stupidity.

We continued our preparation and the Cairo conference was convened. I then invited Begin to visit Ismailia. We moved to a second phase by forming two committees--a Political Committee and a Military Committee. We agreed to upgrade the level of representation from experts at the Cairo conference to the level of the foreign ministers of the two countries in the Political Committee and the defense ministers of the two countries in the Military Committee.

Concerning our talks in Ismailia, as you have heard, Begin began them by declaring that he wanted to inform me of a decision by the Israeli Cabinet. The decision was that the borders between us and them are the international borders with Palestine--that is, that there is no problem about the borders. We began to discuss withdrawal. They offered withdrawal in two stages. In the first stage the Israeli forces would withdraw to the east of al-'Arish in the north and to Ra's Muhammad in the south. In the second stage, the Israeli forces would withdraw to the international borders.

Of course, it was natural--as we said in Jerusalem--that we were not discussing an agreement regarding Sinai; otherwise, we would have previewed all the details. Begin began with Sinai because he wanted to offer something in the negotiations and then he moved on to the Palestinian problem, as I will explain to you.

The Sinai issue, as I have just explained, will be in two stages. I had no intention of going into details about the Sinai issue because the problem is absolutely not that of Sinai. He mentioned that there are settlements in northern Sinai. I know this and know all about them in detail. He said that there are settlements in northern Sinai. When he said this, I told him, let us refer this issue to the Military Committee because it is not the essence of the discussions. I told him that the essence of the discussion is comprehensive settlement. We referred the issue directly to the Military Committee, on which we had agreed at the beginning of the meeting.

Yesterday and the day before I was surprised to hear the Israeli prime minister saying that he had talked with me about the issue of the settlements in northern Sinai and that Egypt knew the Israeli attitude. Our discussions took place in the presence of the two delegations. We were not alone. What happened was exactly as I have said. As for the Sinai issue, Begin's mention of international boundaries was not a new thing for me. Our borders are the international borders, whether Begin likes it or not or whether the hawks like it or not. This is a foregone conclusion. What surprised me was that he said Egypt knew our stand on the settlements exactly.

Before Begin arrived in Ismailia, Israeli Defense Minister Weizman arrived, as you know. He held talks in Janaklis with Egyptian Commander in Chief al-Jamasi. He visited me, and I was at the time in Ismailia before Begin's arrival. Weizman was present. Vice President Husni Mubarak and Al-Jamasi were with me. We talked about Sinai. He asked to go into details with me on Sinai, and I told him to discuss this with the commander in chief. He presented the cause of the Israeli settlements in the northern Israel [as heard]. The Israeli defense minister now hears me. This was before Begin's visit to Ismailia.

Perhaps you heard me say before that I took the issue as a joke. What are these settlements inside international borders? This logic cannot be accepted by any man. I had imagined that the new spirit behind the Egyptian initiative had changed the conceptions of expansion and the old conceptions of the Israeli leaders.

When he presented this issue I told him: Impossible. I do not think this talk is serious. But if you are serious in what you say--and he is listening to me now--I told him: No. If you, Weizman, were serious in what you said, tell Begin that I stood before the Egyptian People's Assembly and said that I was prepared to go to the end of the world to achieve peace or to avoid the shedding of a drop of blood of a soldier or an officer of my sons. I would like you to tell Begin that I will not allow a settlement or one square centimeter within my international borders, even if this requires that I fight you to the end of the world.

Minister Weizman was very wise, but in his loyalty to his country and government he, too, became emotional and said: We have fought four wars. I told him: This is no excuse; this subject is closed and we should not discuss it at all. This took place before Begin came. If Begin is telling the truth, why did he say this? Is Israel's stand well known to me and mine is not known to Israel? It is strange.

Then I was surprised. A date was set for the meeting of the Political Committee. Two days before the meeting of the Political Committee, Israeli radio was broadcasting a report every hour, or every 2 hours at the most, saying that a minister had submitted a request to the Israeli Cabinet for the establishment of new settlements in Sinai. Two hours later the radio said that the Israeli Cabinet studied the matter and rejected the Israeli minister's request for the establishment of new settlements because this would be against the forthcoming negotiations, but it decided to strengthen the existing settlements. Strange moves. Do they think that we do not follow these things? Or are they so self-confident of that they think that they can change the facts before the whole world and that no one will pay attention to them? It was a continual campaign of successive statements carried all day by Israeli radio and television regarding the settlements and that the minister whose request for the establishment of settlements was refused was very angry and that the Israeli Cabinet replied in the negative and decided to strengthen the existing settlements.

The Israeli radio and television also said that the minister went to Yamit, a settlement in northern Sinai on our land, and the settlers there staged a demonstration against him and that another minister went to them and said "no," the Israeli Army will protect you. Undoubtedly the whole world followed these moves with us. I followed them and perhaps this was the reason for my convening a National Security Council meeting last Sunday--the day set for the Egyptian foreign minister's departure for the Political Committee meeting in Jerusalem.

I tell you with absolutely unbiased frankness that after following up these announcements and this approach, I became pessimistic and said: By God, the Political Committee meeting is a matter that we must study carefully. I was surprised--as I said here, President Carter is carrying out a good, sincere and active role--I was surprised by his sending a message saying that Israel rejects our proposed agenda. Earlier we had rejected Israel's proposed agenda. The U.S. President said that since you both rejected one another's agenda, I propose an agenda for you as a compromise between the two.

We read the three-point U.S. agenda and we all know that the basic aim of the Political Committee meeting in Jerusalem was to issue the so-called declaration of principles, that is, declaring the first principle, which is: an Israeli withdrawal from the land occupied since 1967, in accordance with UN Security Council 242. The second principle is: a solution of all aspects of the Palestinian question. All aspects of the Palestinian question means that the Palestinian question is not one of refugees only, but is first and foremost a political question.

Thus, by solving the Palestinian problem from the political and humanitarian aspects--the political aspect meaning the state and the right to self-determination and the humanitarian aspect meaning the refugees--Israel would be pledging that it is ready for a solution and the declaration of principles. Once these two principles are declared, it would be easy then for the Political Committee to proceed, guided by these principles.

We have submitted proposals, and you read about them in the papers yesterday. We do not suffer from any complexes. In the declaration we requested and for which we broke off the talks, we had said openly that the evacuation should be from the Golan, the West Bank and Gaza, too, before Sinai. We do not suffer from any complexes. We are not narrow-minded partisans. We do not have petrified minds like the Soviet Union, nor are we working for a separate agreement. No. Let the stupid Soviet Union know that I broke off the negotiations because Israel did not agree to withdraw from the Golan, the West Bank and Gaza before Sinai. [applause]

You heard this. The proposed U.S. agenda concerning the committee meeting for the issuance of this declaration arrived. As I told you, contacts between Egypt and the U.S. continued throughout Saturday evening. The vice president stayed up until the morning. The operation continued throughout the dawn, and in the morning I was surprised to hear that the U.S. President had sent word to the vice president that the U.S.-proposed agenda which Egypt approved had been approved by Israel as well. The vice president passed the information to me in the morning. He was kind enough to stay up all night and not to wake me until the morning. But, as he told me, matters at that time had not yet been solved.

You will recall that on that day, I was scheduled to meet with the delegation to the Political Committee which would go to Jerusalem. As president of the republic, I convened a meeting of the National Security Council instead of the delegation to the Political Committee to study the subject. While we were in session in the National Security Council, a cable came from the U.S. President saying that Israel had approved the proposed U.S. agenda after we had rejected each other's agenda.

We discussed the subject at length at the National Security Council. The council members recall that I was not at all optimistic in my talk. But I did not want to give Israel the opportunity to say that Egypt did not want peace. As long as they approved the agenda we had approved, I gave the necessary instructions to the foreign minister, Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil, before the National Security Council. He left and the meetings began in Jerusalem.

On the first day, I listened to the opening session. At this session, Dayan spoke in his capacity as Israel's foreign minister and also in his capacity as the chairman of the session because, as we know, the host country usually chairs the meetings. In his statement, Dayan said good things. He reached the point at which he said: We are ready to discuss everything and everything is subject to discussion and negotiations and we want peace and so forth. But he also said that during negotiations the negotiators would come closer to each other until they meet halfway. By saying this, Dayan denied that a negotiator or a side should impose anything on the other side. This meant that they were ready for this and that everything could be negotiated in order to meet halfway. To meet halfway? O.K., to meet halfway on what?

Israel is on our land. Even if it pulls back to three-quarters of our land, it will still possess part of my land and sovereignty. Even the three-quarters and even if it pulls back to 99.1 percent, the remaining 0.9 percent will be our land and sovereignty. It is a strange logic and strange cleverness. I do not know if they think that nobody understands, or can analyze or is aware of this.

Actually, if we take this talk seriously, it would mean that when the question of the land is discussed, Israel would only go halfway. About which land is Israel talking? Israel is talking about my land and not its land. Then this halfway is inside my land and would mean that I would be losing half of my land and my sovereignty. This talk is strange and misleading. I sent my instructions to Muhammad Kamil and I told him to proceed. I told him that his instructions were clear, whether as a result of the outcome of the National Security Council meeting or of what I had instructed him at the National Security Council. The next day, things got aggravated. The Israeli prime minister stood [sentence incomplete].

First, our foreign minister, Muhammad Kamil met with Begin, and they agreed that no statements would be made so that we could create a calm atmosphere--and that was at the request of our foreign minister, Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil. In other words, in order to create a calm atmosphere, let us not make statements. Begin told him: Yes indeed. Naturally, the foreign minister told Begin: We have come with an open mind and we are ready for an understanding, but within the limits of which you are aware: that is, Egypt's stand. Begin said: Yes. He welcomed this statement and they reached this agreement.

Two hours later, and at the dinner banquet Begin hosted in honor of the U.S. and Egyptian foreign ministers, he made his famous speech in which he mentioned everything and in which he returned to the old tune of the pre-October arrogance to the extent that Israeli officials and ministers apologized to the Egyptians at this meeting, particularly after our minister, Muhammad Kamil, took a dignified and strong stand which reduced Begin to his normal size. [applause]

Consequently, how can the Political Committee continue or proceed if such is the case? In other words, let me say that Begin might apologize for what he said, and he has indeed apologized and we will accept the apology. But how can we agree, or in which way can we agree, that we and Israel should meet each other halfway, while this halfway point is in our territory and while this halfway point is at the expense of our sovereignty. Well, Israel would thus lose nothing, absolutely nothing.

I understand and agree that, indeed, the negotiations should be conducted the way they are conducted in the world and that we should meet halfway, but after Israel goes back to the 1967 border, when each of us would be in his territory and within his border. Afterward we would sit together and say: Well, what is it we should attain in order to achieve peace? At this point, halfway would be half from them and half from me.

However, Israel is occupying my land. Even more, Israel anticipates developments and says colonies [musta'marat] or settlements [mustawtanat] and these should stay. Israel does not only say that these settlements should stay, but it does so with surprising boasting. It is said that the Israeli army will protect them in my territory. Surprising, this is surprising boasting.

In view of these things, there is absolutely no possibility of our agreeing to continue with this farce by which they want to impose their conditions. They imagined that they would impose these conditions after the 1967 defeat but they were never able to do it. True, we were defeated militarily in 1967 but our will was never defeated and Israel could not dictate a thing to us. In 1973 Israel was defeated and the United States intervened and we could not impose anything on Israel.

Well, if at the time of our bitter defeat you could not impose your political will or your political terms on us, how can we possibly accept them now, after 1973, the victory of 1973, the earthquake of 1973, the press conference of Dayan on the fourth day at the front and in the presence of all the world correspondents, and after the U.S. aid given to them? How can they imagine that we would today, after October 1973, accept what we rejected after our defeat in 1967? It is inconceivable.

I take this opportunity to place the situation before you, as I have said, concerning the two superpowers. Regrettably, the Soviet Union still insists on its policy. It is still imposing a complete embargo on arms and spare parts, from the 1973 war to this day, except one deal which resulted from a visit by the foreign minister.

Even this deal, as promised by them was not completed. They did not send the rest of it and they stopped. As for spare parts, they refused completely. Last year they officially informed us that even the old deals agreed upon were canceled and that we would have to start all over again and payment would have to be in hard currency, as they are doing with the mad boy of Libya.

This is the Soviet Union's stand. We all know it. We are now close to 18 and 19 January 1977. We are close. We are now in January. [commotion and applause] I mean that in view of successive events, I never live in the past. We all remember the stand taken by the Soviet Union and its agents on 18 and 19 January 1977. That attitude of the Soviet Union has continued since that date, in an attempt to play havoc inside the country here. It calls the uprising of thieves a national uprising, based on the word of its agents in Egypt here. As I have promised you, there shall be no truce whatsoever with these agents. [applause]

I do not know whether the Soviet Union has or has not heard about what the people did on my return from my trip to Jerusalem or later on everywhere. I do not know how this is interpreted in the context of the proletariat, imperialism or defeatism. They use many expressions. There shall be no truce with them or with their agents. I am saying this to you as representatives of the people. [applause] This is the attitude of the Soviet Union.

As for the U.S. attitude, today we must let the American people and President and the world also hear our opinion. After the 1973 war, Kissinger and I embarked on the so-called peace process. This was also one of the things which angered the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union was also angry later when I launched the initiative, although in 1972, when we were in a position of defeat, Kosygin asked officially that he arrange a meeting for me with Golda Meir in Tashkent. This meant that I would have to go and sign a surrender. When the ambassador refused to inform me of this--he only told me about it in Cairo. I wish he had informed me of it there, I would have given him my opinion then The Soviet Union is angry about this.

After the 1973 war we embarked on the peace process. Kissinger came We began with the six points, about which the Soviet Union has been angry to this day. We concluded the first disengagement and the second disengagement. We agreed that after the second disengagement, there was no room for the step-by-step policy and that we would go to Geneva after the 1976 U.S. presidential elections, that is, early in 1977 so that the Geneva conference would be held to promote a comprehensive settlement or peace in the area.

I have cooperated with three U.S. presidents: Nixon and his secretary of state, Kissinger; Ford and his secretary of state, Kissinger; and Carter and his secretary of state, Vance. I must here state for the record that the Americans have not asked me for naval facilities in Alexandria, which the Soviet Union enjoyed. The American President has not asked me for a base in Marsa Matruh, as the Soviet Union did. He has not asked for any bases from me.

To this day, the United States has been providing Egypt with a total of $1 billion annually for the past 3 years. [applause] We must mention all this. We have got to mention all this. We must also mention that, in connection with the clearing of the Suez Canal, when I made a request to the Americans, they responded to my request within hours, and the clearing did in fact begin under the command of the Egyptian Navy.

The Soviet Union had asked to be given a month, after which time they said they wanted to be paid from the crossing fees. We told them that the Americans were doing it free. They said: All right, we will come. By the time they did, the Americans, the British and the French had almost completed clearing the canal, so they took an area in the Gulf of Suez to clear.

As I have said, they cleared the canal. You all know that the canal is one of the main resources in Egypt, yielding $500 million annually. You all know that the canal is now one of the main sources of revenue in Egypt. It brings in an annual income of $500 million. There is also the Japanese project, which has been in progress for 2 years and you can go and see it. It is a magnificent project. When completed in 2 years time, in 1980, it will bring in a revenue of $1 billion, God willing.

Not one letter has been exchanged between me and the United States regarding the clearing of the canal or the cost of its clearing. As I have told you, anyone who goes looking around the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, the presidency or anywhere else will find nothing in this regard. When the Russians came to me, they said that they would collect the clearing cost from the transit tolls. I told them that the Americans were doing the clearing at no cost to us. The Russians said fine and went to begin working in the Gulf of Suez. They then said: You must give us a letter. I told them: I have not given the Americans a letter so far. I do not know what the clearing operation cost or how it was paid for because the Americans did the job as a type of aid.

In order not to embarrass the Russians, we wrote a letter to the Soviet Union. However, I have not exchanged one single piece of paper with the Americans on the costs. The clearing was done and the canal is now bringing in a revenue of $500 million, and after 2 years it will bring in a revenue of $1 billion, God willing. I am stating all this to record facts. However, the American people must know the reaction of my country's citizens and their dissapointment--a reaction and disappointment expressed by the press--with the actions of Israel and the way it reacted to the Egyptian initiative.

This is no longer an Egyptian initiative. It has become a historic action which the entire world has adopted. The initiative has fully succeeded, and nobody can erase it from the history of the world. It has become an illuminating torch, which is intended to become a model of political action and work for peace and ethics in politics. The world has adopted all this. [applause]

An astonishing thing, though, is that Begin was speaking at the Knesset yesterday or the day before. He said: We do not need the recognition of anybody. Our journalists and chief editors were sitting with him and told him: We want to know the background. He continued to be emotional. Out of courtesy, the journalists said: Let us not publish this talk. We wanted to know the background and let us not publish this talk because it is not in the interests of the cause. They did so out of their sense of responsibility. He said: Agreed. After they left, every word was broadcast over the Israeli radio and television. This is strange. What he told the journalists, he repeated at the Knesset yesterday.

What did he say? He was asked: Why did you not respond to As-Sadat's initiative. He answered: I have responded. He was asked: How? He answered: This is the map of Sinai. We will hand back Sinai as far as the international borders. He was told: This is not your land nor is it your country. This does not constitute a concession on your part at all. He said: What is all this then?

He was asked: As-Sadat came here. Is this not the recognition of you and Israel which you have been seeking? He answered: Who said that we need recognition?

Yes, I say to the American people that this is the result of the arsenal of unlimited arms which Israel is getting. It is this arsenal that permits a person like Begin to stand and say that he does not need Egypt's recognition. Well, we did not seek Begin's recognition; it was he who sought this recognition.

Last April when I was with the U.S. President, I discussed with the U.S. President three points to which I added two. The three points are: 1) the 1967 borders; 2) the nature of peace; 3) the Palestine question.

Well, the second point--the nature of peace--took most of the time of my discussions with President Carter because Israel not only demanded and cried out for recognition but wanted this recognition to be accompanied with normal relations.

If Begin does not want our recognition, this is his concern, but let him know that it was he who demanded this recognition and [let him know] that our land is sacred. [applause] My own appraisal is that Begin's words express only his own feelings because I saw the Israeli people and their concern, too, to live in peace with their neighbors in this area.

I tell the American people that you have done and continue to do all this. The U.S. President and the U.S. secretary of state have done this in all sincerity and honesty. But it is the wrong approach. Israel does not receive arms to defend itself as was the case in the past. I have embarked on a peace initiative. I am the president of the greatest Arab state and the president of the state which holds the decision of war and peace--Egypt. I embarked on an initiative. What is the result? Depending on the arms arsenal supplied to him, Begin says: I did not ask for Egypt's recognition. The settlements will remain where they are and will be defended by the Israeli Army. By American weapons naturally. I want to tell the American people that this is the result of the policies which have been applied.

The entire world and the American people are on the side of initiative until this very day. Scores of thousands of people have been getting in touch by all means of communications to say how they had cried in front of their television sets during my initiative. Really, these people lived the events with me exactly as my people did.

Despite this, Begin stands and says that the settlements which are in your territory must be defended by the Israeli Army. Moreover, the Israeli defense minister is seeking to obtain F-16 aircraft after he had obtained Phantoms and F-15's. For your information, I asked the U.S. secretary of state yesterday to officially communicate to the American President, for the first time, an application for arming Egypt with all the weapons that Israel possesses. [applause]

I did not ask this to attack Israel. No. However, if there are people in our area who believe that the arms arsenal will get them everything, then I have great responsibilities, which go beyond the area here to include all Africa. I am subjected to a total ban by the Soviet Union. I told the secretary of state to tell the American President: I hope you will not impose a ban on me as the Soviet Union did because the problem in the past has been Israel. Well, our intentions have become apparent and the world knows them.

As I said recently, the peace initiative still stands and the door is still open, on one condition: that it should be understood that the basic principles for international relations are not imposed conditions, as they say, but that the basic principles must be the springboard. The first of these principles is that sovereignty and territory must not be violated as far as I or they are concerned. By this we shall proceed from a sound basis. There will be no violation of sovereignty or land. On this basis we shall proceed to build peace.

They say that Israel wants security. Well, I shall submit our point of view to you on the question of security in specific points so that the world, which is participating with us now in this session, will also hear them. These points, which are six in number and which are the same points that we submitted to the Political Committee meeting in Jerusalem on 16 January 1978, are as follows:

1. An Israeli withdrawal from Sinai, the Golan, the West Bank and Gaza, in accordance with Resolution No 242, and in accordance with the principle of the impermissibility of seizing land as a result of war.

2. The need to guarantee the safety of the territories and political independence of every state in the area through arrangements to be agreed on by the parties on the basis of the principle of reciprocity.

3. Respect for the right of all the states in the area to sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence.

4. Achievement of a just solution for all aspects of the Palestinian question on the basis of the right of self-determination through negotiations in which Egypt, Jordan, Israel and the representatives of the Palestinian people will participate. Why did we name Egypt and Jordan? It is because the Gaza Strip belonged to Egypt and the West Bank belonged to King Husayn. Thus, we and Jordan are ready to sit with the representatives of the Palestinians and with Israel to solve the question.

I declare before you that during a previous visit that King Husayn paid me--I wish to place this before you--I told King Husayn that as far as the Palestinians are concerned, the right to self-determination is a basic matter because unless the Palestine problem is solved, there can be no peace. I also told him that the Gaza Strip, and I here say it before you so that the whole world will hear me--we do not covet it in any way. We do not want to annex, govern, dismember it or anything else at all. We want its owners, who are the Palestinians, to have it. This is Egypt's fixed policy and we will never deviate from it.

I told King Husayn since we had Gaza and you had the West Bank, we may agree that in the future settlement, Israel will withdraw from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and that the United Nations will take over for a number of years to be agreed upon--1, 2, 3 years, but not exceeding 5 years--and that when necessary after Israel's withdrawal, we may intervene for the sake of the question of security which Israel uses as a pretext occasionally, just like 'Uthman's shirt [referring to a well-known phrase dating back to the early days of Islam, meaning pretext]. Whenever we talk about the settlements, they raise the question of security. Whenever we mention expansion, they say: No, it is security. Whenever we talk about the West Bank, they say: security.

Well, in Gaza, if the Palestinians--who are the ones to decide--agree, we would intervene. But we would not intervene if they do not want us to.

We would be willing to go in to help them with security, but only until they have achieved self-determination. After self-determination--what I am saying is that Egypt has no demands, neither before self-determination, nor during the presence of the United Nations, nor during Israeli withdrawal, nor after the referendum. We will not ask that anything be said in the referendum about their annexation to Egypt. No, the Gaza Strip is Palestinian and should be returned to its people. This is what I agreed upon with King Husayn. That was the fourth of our six points on security.

5. Termination of all the claims or states of war and establishment of peaceful relations among all the states in the region through peace treaties (mu'ahadat as-salam) in accordance with the UN Charter. This was what we submitted, as I told you, on the Political Committee's agenda in Jerusalem.

On the question of Israel's security, as I told you, we have spelled out all these things and I have listed them in a more detailed form which I have sent and I want to submit it to you for the record. These points are: In order to solve the problem of security which we consider to be important in relation to the Israeli citizen, we are prepared for:

1. Demilitarized zones along both sides.

2. Areas with reduced arms on both sides.

3. Early warning stations on both sides, provided that I would not ask for the stationing of an Egyptian soldier in my station in Israel's territory nor would they station an Israeli soldier in their station in Egypt's territory. Then the United Nations would be present and another party could be present.

4. Four also relates to security. It is the possibility of having UN emergency forces present along the border.

5. We have no objection to the presence of UN emergency forces in Sharm ash-Shaykh, but only UN emergency forces, without the presence of a single Israeli soldier.

6. We are prepared to form a joint commission, as things were under the armistice agreement in the past, to supervise the implementation of this agreement on both sides and to meet periodically. Thus, I do not believe that the security problem would become the well-known excuse which, whenever they are cornered on a subject, they say: There, this is a security problem; the settlements--no, this is security; the West Bank--no, this is security. The process has become clear.

Maybe those who used to accuse Egypt, on hearing these details today, will take back their words regarding Egypt's stand. We stated everyone's stand rightly and justly. We spoke about Russia's stand, the United States' and Israel's stand as well as the stand of the Israeli people. We gave each one his right. This is Egypt. Egypt will never join an alliance. Egypt will never fall into anybody's sphere of influence. Egypt, with its traditions, legacy, origin and faith, will remain above everything.

Brother and sister members of the People's Assembly, I can sum up the situation briefly in the following points: Israel's leaders are still moving strongly and deliberately toward all the claims made prior to the Egyptian initiative--the old way. Egypt does not seek peace at any cost.

We want a lasting and firm peace which cannot be shaken by storms or surprises. All the Israeli attempts to postpone things and waste time aim to weaken the impetus for peace created by the Egyptian initiative or to reduce the world's support for this peaceful impetus. All these Israeli attempts have failed and their fate will be nothing more than failure. The Egyptian initiative has offered all that we can possibly offer.

We accepted all the serious guarantees for its security--you have heard me enumerating six guarantees--and its right to a normal existence with its neighbors. What remains is for the Israeli side to respond. We shall never compromise, neither on the issue of our complete sovereignty over our territory nor on the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

I have told you about the question of recognition. There is no reason for me to repeat it, because I was really astonished when Prime Minister Begin said in the Israeli Knesset that he does not need recognition. If he does not need recognition, we are not running after him, but this is what Israel has been asking for in the past 30 years, and this is what the U.S. President put on the agenda as an urgent Israeli request. I think that, in saying this, he was expressing his personal emotions, and did not express the opinion of the rest.

My question now is: What is the next move and what is the way to confront this Israeli position which is lying in wait to frustrate the peace initiative?

From this rostrum, I tell Israel, and I also tell the leadership of the Soviet Union that the Egyptian peace initiative is no longer the possession of Egypt alone. The Egyptian peace initiative has become the desired reality sought by the whole world. The Egyptian peace initiative has spread to human, moral and political dimensions, and now lives in all consciences throughout the world. Man everywhere today upholds the principle of protecting the Egyptian Arab man and the Israeli man from the evils of destruction and disasters of war. The ethics of the initiative are based on the just decision that relies on principles and on honest confrontation for which there must be courage and ability to overcome the ambitions of expansion and dreams of the future.

The political aims of the initiative have become a certainty in every official or popular international grouping which has the right to make decisions. Every decision that has so far been announced by the various quarters that take part in shaping the future of the world is an endorsement of the aims of the initiative and its human, moral and political dimensions.

If the initiative has destroyed the terrible psychological barriers of doubts, distrust and hatred, the enemies of the initiative will not succeed in smothering the initiative with new barriers as a result of lack of responsibility or small ambitions or conspiracies. From here, from this rostrum, I warn: I have conveyed my message in Jerusalem and made God and the whole world my witness. Today, I warn and do not threaten, because threats are the method of the weak. I warn against the results of this foul play which is taking place in the position of responsibility--a position that demands seriousness, the ability to make hard decisions, and the following of an honorable and just course.

I thank God that the entire world has realized that we exactly mean every word we say and that we fully respect all promises we make. Therefore, I warn again and I shall be satisfied with giving a warning now. Egypt moves and will only move from the position of strength and self-confidence.

Brothers and sisters, the peace initiative will proceed along its course, God willing, carrying its strong and bright slogan. Let the October war be the last war because the desire for peace is not the desire of Egypt alone but the desire of all the forces of the world. I hope that those who arrogantly, stubbornly and deceitfully believe that they can eternally challenge the will of the entire world, and deceive it, will understand and realize that they have chosen a futile battle and that a humanitarian universal unanimity will chase them until they discard a philosophy which has become obsolete after the October war and which has become more slanderous after the peace initiative. This is the philosophy of imposing security by military force.

Egypt has moved toward peace from a position of strength. The diehards must deeply and carefully reconsider what I said at the Israeli Knesset. I said that in its search for a durable and just peace, the Arab nation does not act from a weak or shaky position. On the contrary, it possesses sufficient prerequisites of strength and stability, and its word emanates from a sincere desire and a civilized realization that there is no alternative but to establish a durable and just peace in order that we may together avert a definite calamity which will befall us--them and the entire world. This is literally what I said at the Knesset.

Those who obstruct the road of peace stand now at the dock to be judged by history. Their judges are all the honest strugglers for peace. It is the responsibility of the leaders and those whom destiny entrusted with the mission of making the decision which would save millions from the destruction of the bomb and the rocket--it is the responsibility of these leaders to abandon the maneuvers of those caught redhanded.

Today, we are facing the greatest issues in the history of mankind. We are facing the issue of the right of the Arab and Israeli people for peace and safety through respect of the rights of others and through the declaration of the principles of justice and freedom. Nothing is valid that denies the rights of others. There can be no respect for a force which disregards the dignity of others and no life on a land which is the property of others. There can be no claim to a pretext which conceals the ambitions of expansion and aggression. I say and repeat to the Israeli prime minister: Our land is sacred. The rights of our people are sacred. The peace and security of all of us is sacred.

The Israeli Government has no alternative but to finally extricate itself from the dreams of self-conceit and learn well the lessons of the confrontation between us and them. The whim of expansion will avail them nothing. I will repeat what I said at the Israeli Knesset. I said literally: I have not come to submit a plea that you withdraw your froces from the occupied territory. The total withdrawal from the Arab territory in the West Bank, Gaza, Golan and Sinai which was occupied after 1967 is a basic matter and we will accept no argument and submit no plea to anybody or expect a favor from anybody about it.

This is what I told them at the Knesset. I am repeating it here today before you in order that the and the entire world may hear it. As for our people, the people of Egypt, I want every man and woman on the land of our valley--the land of love, freedom and peace--to realize that I am aware how much you were shocked by the Israeli Government's policy and the maneuvers of its leaders to sabotage the peace process.

However, I want them also to know that I am aware of the degree of the grief in their hearts by the exposure of the intentions of those who want to continue the occupation of territory and bargain over the noblest principles, after our people and I were overwhelmed by optimism that the Government of Israel would make difficult decisions just as we here in Egypt have made difficult decisions.

I say to the sons of our great people--as destiny has honored me with being one of the sons of this people and with upholding their trust--I say to them that together, by God's help, we will achieve our sublime goal--the goal of peace.

We must know that the road is hard. But we also know that ultimately right will prevail.

I hope that our sons in the land of our great valley will remember that the whole world imagined us before the October war as a dead body that would never come back to life, but this body did. Many international balances and calculations have changed. Arab power became the sixth power in the post-October world.

I also hope that the sons of Egypt in their green valley will remember that today's world--the post-peace initiative world--is giving us all its help and encouragement and contribution. It is even paying us all its respect and esteem.

We will triumph, God willing: The will of peace will triumph, God willing. It is enough for us today that there is international unanimity, in all capitals--that the post-Egyptian initiative world will not allow the initiative to be aborted because the world fully realizes that dangerous disasters would face mankind if the unique historic peace opportunity, which we had the honor to initiate and offer, is lost.

It suffices us, Oh sons of our great people, that the whole world accuses those in the dock--those who are attempting to foil the peace initiative--and holds them responsible for the consequences of their action.

We have presented our initative to the world while proceeding with it in firm steps, with faith and responsibility before God, before the people and before mankind.

If I have previously excused those who initially doubted the seriousness of the initiative, due to their astonishment and surprise from its impact, I will not now excuse those who are attempting to put an end to the initiative due to their failure or weakness, because a difficult decision is required from them as leaders.

Those who doubted the initiative in the beginning have become aware of its seriousness and its astonishing strength and are giving it all support. Those who are now seeking to put an end to the initiative will come up against a great thing which will sweep them away and will paralyze their countermove against the course of history. It will even subject them to the realities which the world--the post-initiative world--is now imposing.

Once again, which will not be the last time, I say that the peace initiative will never fail. Some may forget or may err. But we implore God: "Our lord! Condemn us not if we forget or fall into error. Our lord! Lay not on us a burden like that which thou didst lay on those before us. Our lord! Lay not on us a burden greater than we have strength to bear. Blot out our sins, and grant us forgiveness. Have mercy on us. Thou art our protector; help us against those who stand against faith." [prolonged applause]

AS-SADAT AGREES TO CONVENE MILITARY COMMITTEE MEETING

LD212145Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2115 GMT 21 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Cairo, 21 January--President Anwar as-Sadat made a statement to journalists at the end of the People's Assembly meeting tonight. He said: We have agreed with Cyrus Vance on several steps regarding future moves, but I am not in a position to disclose these steps now.

Replying to a question regarding the meeting of the joint Egyptian-Israeli committees, President as-Sadat said: We have agreed to convene a meeting of the Military Committee, but I am not sure whether Israel will approve the meeting or not. In any case, we are ready to receive them and we hope that the committee will meet shortly.

Replying to a question on whether the Egyptian foreign minister will go to Jerusalem or not, he said: First, we must agree on certain specific matters regarding sovereignty and land. The Israelis want both land and peace. We must first agree on these matters, and then decide whether or not the Political Committee should begin its work.

ARAB AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SUPPORTS AS-SADAT SPEECH

NC221320Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Jan 78 NC

[Text] The People's Assembly held a meeting this morning, attended by certain deputy prime ministers and ministers, to discuss subjects on the agenda of the assembly.

At the beginning of the session some assembly members affirmed that the stage through which Egypt is passing is an important one in which we must all stand firmly behind President as-Sadat. They strongly supported the president and denounced Israel's behavior.

In addition, the People's Assembly Arab Affairs Committee in its meeting today declared its full support for everything President as-Sadat said in his speech last night. The committee called on the peoples of the world to shoulder their responsibilities for peace in this area and the achievement of just and lasting peace in the Middle East. The committee expressed support for the basic principles contained in President as-Sadat's speech regarding a comprehensive solution of the Arab issue, including total withdrawal from all the Arab territories, recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people, and insurance of the security of the states of the area to live in peace.

The committee said that peace is a universal demand and that the Israeli leaders, who today stand in the way of peace by challenging the UN resolutions and world public opinion, must alone bear the consequences of the obstacles they place in the way of peace. The committee appealed to the peoples and governments of the world to defend humanity and avert the certain calamity that will befall humanity if the peace opportunity is lost.

KAMIL: EGYPT ASSESSING SITUATION FOLLOWING AS-SADAT SPEECH

NC221741Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1725 GMT 22 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 22 January--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil has told MENA that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry is now assessing and studying the situation in general in the light of President Anwar as-Sadat's important speech yesterday and in the wake of the return of the Egyptian delegation from Jerusalem and the atmosphere which prevailed when the delegation was there.

On the return to Cairo of Alfred Atherton, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and Southeast Asian affairs, the foreign minister said that there is nothing to this story so far. In addition to the foreign minister, Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and a large number of senior officials at the Foreign Ministry are taking part in the assessment of the situation.

MUBARAK CHAIRS MEETING ON POLITICAL SITUATION 22 JAN

NC222105Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2050 GMT 22 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 22 January--Vice President Husni Mubarak today chaired a meeting which was also attended by Engineer Sayyid Mar'i, People's Assembly speaker; Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil, foreign minister; Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, head of the Egyptian delegation to the Cairo peace conference. The political situation was studied during the 90-minute meeting.

MENA: CAIRO PREPARATORY CONFERENCE STILL EXISTS LEGALLY

NC221801Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1734 GMT 22 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 22 January--Diplomatic sources stated today that the Cairo preparatory conference and the bodies connected with it are considered as still existing legally. The sources added that the suspension of these bodies is the result of the Israeli arrogance and intransigence which are obstructing the peace talks.

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS MEET WITH ASSEMBLY SPEAKER

NC221336Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1323 GMT 22 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jan--A meeting was held at the Foreign Ministry today. It was attended by People's Assembly Speaker Engineer Sayyid Mar'i and the members of the Egyptian delegation to the Egyptian-Israeli Political Committee meeting, which was held in Jerusalem last week. The almost 1-hour meeting was also attended by Foreign Minister and head of the Egyptian delegation to the meetings Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali, Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Usamah al-Baz and Foreign Ministry Office Director Ambassador Ahmad Mahir.

AFP: OCTOBER SAYS ISRAEL BUGGED EGYPTIAN DELEGATION

NC221030Y Paris AFP in English 1007 GMT 22 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, Jan 22 (AFP)--Israel bugged the hotel rooms of members of the Egyptian delegation to peace talks in Jerusalem last week, a Cairo magazine reported today. The magazine OCTOBER said Egyptian security men also turned up microphones in the Hilton Hotel rooms of Cairo reporters covering the talks, which broke down Wednesday.

WAR MINISTER RECEIVES VISITING BRITISH AIR MARSHAL

NC221818Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1732 GMT 22 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 22 January--At noon today Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of War and War Production Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi received in his office British Defense Ministry representative Air Marshal Douglas (Law), who is visiting Cairo. The 30-minute meeting was attended by the British military attache in Cairo.

BAGHDAD COMMENTARY ASSAILS AS-SADAT'S ARAB SUPPORTERS

JN2020502Y Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1915 GMT 20 Jan 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The question now is how to keep the minds of the masses closed to the current chaos and maneuvers. Some forces and sides in the region do not care at all about the end of the path which was taken by the ruler of Egypt. There is also no clear indication that some others will stop showing double attitudes in their public statements.

At a joint press conference today with Cyrus Vance, As-Sadat opened his remarks by saying: The door is still open. This points out the fact that some reactionary calls for saving the As-Sadat regime and supporting it in the face of Zionist intransigence must not go unnoticed and must be strongly confronted, especially since these calls come from the allies of the allies of the As-Sadat regime of Arab reaction, the king of the Moroccan regime and others.

The As-Sadat regime now finds its source of life in groveling to the enemy and coexisting with it at the expense of the blood of the Egyptian masses and the Arab nation and of its life. The As-Sadat regime cannot be confronted without confronting these allies and without stopping it from continuing on its path. Here lies the importance of confronting the Arab axes of reaction and U.S. imperialism and the importance of entrenching the path of struggle to face the path of settlement. You can never coordinate with the Phalangist gangs or with King Husayn's regime and then say that this is within the framework of confronting As-Sadat's path and that this is part of the confrontation. It is a deadly error to believe that what As-Sadat has not succeeded in achieving in the Knesset will be achieved in Geneva.

The road to the Knesset is just a shortcut to Geneva or of going toward a settlement in general. If some people find it difficult to commit themselves to this fact because they are committed to the path of settlement, there is no need for them to practice double-dealing and deception among the Arab masses. There is no need for some symbols of the renegade leaders to beg U.S. imperialism by cordial letters through Paul Findley and, at the same time, express their opposition to imperialism. These practices are no longer bought by the fighters and the masses. To practice these things at this time in particular, contributes toward deceiving the masses on what is being committed by the by the Egyptian ruler. It is first a stab in the back of the Egyptian masses and second, a distortion of what is really happening.

The path of steadfastness in the face of the tribulations has always been clear, namely, the path of solidarity with the Egyptian masses in the face of its tyrant, with the Jordanian masses in the face of the monarchical police state and with the Palestinian and Lebanese masses in the face of the isolationist-Zionist alliance. All this must be within the framework of fighting the settlement and opposing all its projects, resolutions and programs in every form, through the unified Arab front and the armed struggle of the masses.

BAGHDAD COMMENTS ON U.S. EFFORTS IN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

JN201420Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Cairo--U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance today arrived in Cairo from occupied Palestine for a short visit to Egypt. Immediately after his arrival, Vance met with Egypt's ruler, Anwar as-Sadat, and delivered a letter to him from U.S. President Jimmy Carter. It has been reported that the letter includes ideas for maintaining the so-called momentum in the negotiations for a settlement.

It will be recalled that Vance arrived in occupied Palestine last Tuesday to participate in the work of the joint Zionist-As-Sadat committee which suspended its work day before yesterday as part of As-Sadat's maneuvers aimed at reaching a settlement with the enemy.

On the other hand, enemy Prime Minister Menahem Begin reasserted the stand of his entity toward the occupied Arab lands and the settlements constructed in Sinai in the aftermath of the 1967 agression. Begin told a press conference last night that As-Sadat knew before his visit to the occupied homeland that the Zionist entity would not give up these settlements. Speaking about the meetings of the Military Committee stemming from the Ismailia summit, Begin said that As-Sadat's regime has extended an invitation to the Zionist delegation to come to Cairo tomorrow, Saturday. Begin added that the Zionist delegation will not go to Cairo on Saturday. However, Begin did not exclude the possibility that the Zionist delegation will go to Cairo later.

Begin also expressed his willingness to meet with As-Sadat in the presence of U.S. President Jimmy Carter. Press reports spoke about the possibility of convening a meeting among As-Sadat, Carter and Begin in Washington to assess the phase reached in the settlement endeavors. It was reported in Cairo that As-Sadat will give Vance a letter to President Carter on the stand of As-Sadat's regime toward the work of the Political Committee.

UPI reports that Vance is carrying proposals to resume the work of the Political Committee. Carter last night telephoned Vance in occupied Palestine. Zionist sources said that they discussed As-Sadat's maneuver, represented by his recalling his delegation to the meetings of the Political Committee. Last night Carter asserted the significance of the continuation of the U.S. role in the settlement endeavors. He pointed out that his administration is attempting to maintain what he called the momentum of the talks taking place between As-Sadat and the Zionist enemy.

PRESS COMMENTS ON AS-SADAT'S 21 JAN SPEECH

JN230820Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 23 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 23 January--The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH describes the speech As-Sadat delivered 2 days ago as a collection of prevarications, contradictions and sickening exposed lies.

In its commentary today, AL-JUMHURIYAH asks how As-Sadat will justify his negotiations with the enemy now that this enemy has said no to everything.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says: It is obvious that the new steps along the road of settlement will be based on making more concessions. AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: President Carter has opened the way for As-Sadat to make these concessions secretly by reverting to secret talks with Begin and by pointing out to his friend As-Sadat that he should not rely on U.S. pressure to make Begin's government change its attitude.

AL-JUMHURIYAH further says: The only conclusion one can draw from As-Sadat's speech is that this speech was an abortive attempt to defend his utter failure in order to cling to the seat of power, which he had promised to give up in case of failure.

AL-JUMHURIYAH points out that As-Sadat is trying to pretend he has not failed despite his admission that Israel did not change its attitude and despite Begin's insults to him.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says: As-Sadat's arguments are merely an attempt to erect a tattered umbrella to cover his new capitulatory steps.

The newspaper TARIQ ASH-SHA'B says: Three months after his ill-omened visit As-Sadat could not but admit his failure.

TARIQ ASH-SHA'B adds: In his speech, As-Sadat could not overlook the serious obstacles obstructing the road to the capitulatory settlement, but he did not show any desire to retreat from this road. On the contrary, the speech was based on a bet on the ability of the United States to obtain concessions from Tel Aviv. However, neither reality nor the practical stands and statements on the interests of the U.S.-Zionist alliance provide any justification for such a wager.

Concluding its commentary, TARIQ ASH-SHA'B says: The road being followed by As-Sadat can only lead to total surrender to the enemy.

MAURITANIAN DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR 3-DAY VISIT

JN221357Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 22 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 22 January--Sidi Ould Abdallahi Cheikh, Mauritanian minister of state for economic planning and mines and member of the Mauritanian People's Party Political Bureau, arrived in Baghdad last evening at the head of a delegation on a 3-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA Mr Abdallahi described his visit as an important link in strengthening existing cooperation between the two friendly countries. He added that he will hold talks with officials of the Ministry of Planning on strengthening the good relations between Iraq and Mauritania and on ways to consolidate them.

Meetings, Talks Held

JN221358Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1123 GMT 22 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 22 January--Sidi Ould Abdallahi Cheikh, Mauritanian minister of state for economic planning and mines, this morning began his contacts with Iraqi officials.

The Mauritanian minister, who arrived in Baghdad last evening, met with 'Adnan Husayn, Revolution Command Council member and minister of planning. They discussed the development of economic and technical relations between Iraq and Mauritania and the possibility of providing Iraqi assistance in the field of training cadres and exchanging expertise.

Later the Mauritanian minister met with Dr Najih Muhammad Khalil, minister of industry and minerals, and discussed with him the training of Mauritanian cadres in Iraqi industrial institutions.

Dr Khalil assured the Mauritanian minister of Iraq's willingness to provide technical expertise and to send Iraqi experts to Mauritania to study its industrial potential.

In a press statement the Marutitanian minister expressed his appreciation for the Iraqi officials' understanding of the needs of development projects in Mauritania.

Received by Ba'th Official

JN222028Y Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Comrade Dr Munif ar-Razzaz, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received at the National Command building this evening Sidi Ould Abdallahi, member of the National Political Bureau of the Mauritanian People's Party and minister of state for economic planning and mines, and the delegation accompanying him. The meeting was attended by Comrade Badr ad-Din Mudakkar, member of the party's National Command; Comrade Zuhayr al-Qadiri, head of the Foreign Relations Office at the National Command; and the Mauritanian ambassador in Baghdad.

During the meeting, Comrade ar-Razzaz affirmed the desire of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Iraq to develop relations with the Mauritanian People's Party as well as the relations between Iraq and Mauritania in all fields.

Sidi Ould Abdallahi praised the fruitful relations between Iraq and Mauritania and said that every citizen in Mauritania feels he is close to Iraq as a result of the close fraternal relations between the two brotherly countries. He also talked about the question of the struggle of our Arab people in Mauritania before independence and up to the present.

ERITREAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN ENDS VISIT

JN201108Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1035 GMT 20 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 20 January--The delegation of the Revolutionary Council of the Eritrean Liberation Front [ELF] led by Ahmad Nasir, chairman of the council, left Baghdad this morning at the end of a 2-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to the press before his departure, Nasir said the delegation held discussions with Ba'th Party National Command officials on means to consolidate relations between the ELFand the Ba'th Party.

Nasir praised the Ba'th Party's principled stands and its absolute support for the Eritrean revolution in its struggle to achieve complete independence.

Nasir also expressed thanks to the Political Command of the party and revolution for the constant support for the Eritrean revolution and added: This shows the command's great concern for the just cause of our people, the cause of liberation and independence.

BA'TH PARTY MEMBER RETURNS FROM PARIS SYMPOSIUM

JN221000Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0751 GMT 22 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 22 January--Dr 'Abd al-Majid ar-Rafi'i, Ba'th Party National Command member, returned here last evening after attending a symposium on European-Arab solidarity against imperialism held in Paris 14-15 January.

In a statement to INA, Dr ar-Rafi'i said: "Our attendance at the symposium provided an opportunity to express the opinion of the party and the revolution in Iraq on the current Arab situation, on Iraq's stand in the face of the imperialist-Zionist reactionary conspiracy to control our Arab homeland and As-Sadat's role in these conspiratorial plans."

He added that the symposium stressed the importance of mobilizing Arab and international progressive forces to support the Palestinian resistance and to consider the Palestinian question as the crux of the Arab-Zionist conflict, and the Lebanese arena as the facade of this struggle. The symposium also stressed the necessity of pooling all nationalist and progressive forces to find a just settlement to the Lebanese political crisis based on the unity of the Lebanese people and territory and their resistance to the Zionist enemy.

Delegations from 38 Arab and European organizations and parties participated in the symposium along with a number of well-known French personalities.

SADDAM HUSAYN RECEIVES NEW PRC AMBASSADOR

JN221410Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1008 GMT 22 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 22 January--Saddam Husayn, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council, received here today Hou Yeh-feng, newly accredited PRC ambassador to Iraq.

During the meeting Hou Yeh-feng conveyed to the vice chairman the greetings of the PRC premier and his wish to strengthen cordial relations between Iraq and the PRC.

They also discussed friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries and the means to develop these relations in the service and interests of both countries.

OIL DELEGATION LEAVES FOR VISIT TO BRAZIL

JN211104Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 21 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 21 January--An Iraqi oil delegation headed by 'Abd al-Mun'im Hasan 'Alwan, Oil Ministry under secretary, left for Brazil today on a visit of several days. The delegation will hold talks with Brazilian officials on cooperation between the two countries in the fields of crude oil processing and the design and implementation of oil projects.

AMMAN REPORTS ON HUSAYN'S TIME MAGAZINE INTERVIEW

JN230630Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 23 Jan 78 Jn

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has warned that if the current talks on establishing peace in the Middle East fail, we will then be at the end of the road. We will be heading for a real disaster in the area and the whole world. His majesty said that President as-Sadat's initiative represented a hope, but we no longer believe that this initiative will be met by a similar response from Israel.

In an interview with TIME magazine, his majesty affirmed that the basic principles for solving the Middle East dispute are Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, the return of Arab soverignty over Jerusalem, the right of return for Palestinian refugees and the placing of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip under international auspices until their inhabitants can exercise their right to self-determination.

His Majesty King Husayn criticized Israel's stand, which views matters in military terms. He said that removal of barriers and complete cooperation are the things that provide a proper atmosphere, not installations which can be dismantled or deserted.

GOVERNMENT ISSUES STATEMENT SUPPORTING AS-SADAT'S POLICY

JN211220Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Jan 78 JN

[Text] The Jordanian Government has issued the following official statement: The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan expresses its full support of the stand of the Arab Republic of Egypt in this decisive, critical phase and historic turning point, since Egypt is shouldering a major pan-Arab responsibility in facing the Israeli maneuvers, tricks and ambitions in the peace talks which the Israeli government does not want to succeed. Egypt's stand, which upholds the comprehensive settlement and the achievement of the basic Arab demands and rights without any relinquishment of these demands and rights within the framework of just peace, should prompt the whole Arab nation and the world states supporting peace and justice to fully support Egypt.

Egypt has placed the cause of the just Arab rights in the clearest form before the world conscience, relying on the fact that this world conscience can never accept, under any slogan, the principle of the occupation of the lands of others by military force, the displacement of peoples from their homeland and the rejection of just peace and civilized human coexistence among peoples.

Israel now bears a historic responsibility since it has so far chosen the path of violence and aggressive expansion, preferring it to the path of human coexistence and acceptable peace. The international community should now shoulder its responsibilities, particularly the states and international forces which advocate human rights and have a special responsibility in protecting world peace and security.

FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY RESPONDS TO JORDAN'S CALL

JN211645Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Jan 78 JN

[Text] An official spokesman of the French Foreign Ministry has stated that the French Government is seriously studying the call made by the Jordanian Government to France and the European countries, through their ambassadors accredited to Jordan, to adopt an effective stand toward the international diplomatic endeavors aimed at achieving a just and peaceful settlement in the Middle East.

In a statement to a JNA correspondent in Paris, the French spokesman said that France has regularly taken a clear stand, consistent with Jordan's policy in the area and within the framework of the deep-rooted Jordanian-French friendship. He said that the Jordanian call will be discussed in the meetings of the EEC Political Committee or in the coming meetings of the EEC Foreign Ministers. He said that France has consistently called for the necessity of complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territory and recognition of the Palestinian rights and the right of all the states in the area to live in peace and security within recognized and secure border.

The spokesman said that French policy is supported by all European circles. Official European statements emphasize these real bases for a just and peaceful settlement in the Middle East. He stressed that France will do all it can in official and international forums to contribute to achieving a just and peaceful settlement, particularly as world public opinion has begun to realize that the French stands are pioneering marks on the road to a just and peaceful settlement in the Middle East.

PAPER VIEWS AS-SADAT PEACE INITIATIVE, U.S. ROLE

JN210934Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 21 Jan 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "As-Sadat Will Not Be the Only Loser," the newspaper AD-DUSTUR says: Despite the widespread opposition which confronted it, President as-Sadat's initiative was the only decisive means allowing the Arabs to discern Israel's true identity and intentions and to unmask with one stroke all the masks behind which it has been hiding before the civilized world for three decades. It was also the decisive means by which the Arabs have put the United States to the test, by testing the sincerity and intentions of the United States and learning the extent of its commitment to the human rights issue when applied to those of Palestinian origin and those who speak Arabic. The Arabs also discovered the patriotism of Americans and their keenness about their interests when they contradict the greed of a small state called Israel.

The paper continues: It appears now that President As-Sadat is pursuing his plan with determination. That plan is to place Israel and the United States in a tight corner from which they cannot escape until they reply frankly to two fundamental questions: Does Israel really wish to coexist with the Arab countries within its pre-1967 borders? If Israel adopts an intransigent position, will the United States be ready and capable in fact, not only in words, of curbing Israel's conceit, making its leaders desist from the hallucinations of the Torah and deal with the current reality in the Middle East?

AD-DUSTUR further says: Until now, it seems that on the first question, Israel's answer has been negative. The gap between President as-Sadat's concept of peace which he expressed in his speech in the Knesset, and the Israeli concept, as expressed in the Cairo, Ismailia and Jerusalem talks, is a huge gap which cannot be bridged with logic and dialog.

AD-DUSTUR says: There remains the second question, which, in fact, is more important than the first, regarding President as-Sadat's initiative. It is more important because if one has the capacity to understand the mentality of a man such as Menahem Begin, who is living in the past and is trying to impose it on the present and future, it is of the utmost importance to know where the United States and its President stand on all that is happening in the area.

From the time he assumed power in Egypt, President as-Sadat's calculations have been based on a number of suppositions. 1) that the United States is a free, reasonable and responsible country, knowing well where its interests lie and that it is capable, at time of decision making, of putting pressure on Israel to make it more reasonable and to have it relinquish its mad dreams. 2) that during peace negotiations, it would act in a way to insure Jewish interests, consisting of a secure life, while at the same time insuring its strategic interests in this vital area of the world.

Was all that belief a delusion and misleading mirage? Undoubtedly this question is the most pressing one the Egyptian president currently faces; one which most probably will be the main topic of his speech at the People's Assembly today. It also gave rise to the idea of convening a tripartite summit conference in Washington where issues will be decisively settled. It was also the topic of discussion between President as-Sadat and Cyrus Vance yesterday.

In the reply the Egyptian president will receive to that question during the next few weeks, will be determined not only the fate of President as-Sadat's peace initiative, but also the course to be followed by Egypt, the map of the region, peace and war and the international struggle in a region including the Suez Canal, the Red Sea, the Horn of Africa and the gulf.

PAPERS CALL FOR ARAB SUMMIT, UNIFIED STRATEGY

JN220955Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 22 Jan 78 JN

[Press review]

[Text] President Anwar as-Sadat's speech to the Egyptian People's Assembly yesterday and the statement issued by the Jordanian Government in support of Egypt's position in these delicate circumstances and historic turning point preoccupy the attention of today's Jordanian papers. They point out that Jordan's support for the Egyptian stand, prior to President as-Sadat's speech, and the call for support of the big sister in its pan-Arab responsibility before the aggressive Israeli intransigence and conceit, proceed from Jordan's patriotic stand, pan-Arab affiliation and links with the common cause. The papers express hope that the Jordanian call to the Arab nation and to peace-loving peoples in the world will be translated into a large-scale Arab move crystallizing a unified stand based on a clear and well-defined strategy.

The papers also call for a summit conference to formulate an integrated Arab strategy capable of confronting the dangerous Zionist challenge in light of President as-Sadat's exposure of Israeli procrastination and trickery against peace and the future.

Under the headline "The Card of Destructive War," the newspaper AR-RA'Y says: The official statement issued by the Jordanian Government in support of Egypt's pan-Arab stand was a frank and clear call for the Arab states, and international forces which are concerned about peace, to back the Egyptian stand in the face of Israeli deception and maneuvers. President as-Sadat's speech--with the warning it contained--similarly constituted another call for the forces capable of contributing to the establishment of peace to exert a last effort with Israel to convince it of the inevitable establishment of peace in the area.

Egypt has offered the maximum it could give in search of peace but it has not sought peace at any price since it did not relinquish one single inch of occupied territory nor bargain on any of the usurped rights.

So that international efforts not be lost in the labyrinth of Zionist maneuvers, the United States is concerned more than any other state and more responsible than anybody else to exert a last effort to move Israel from its inflexible stands and make it respond to the unanimous international will embodied in UN Security Council Resolution No 242.

Calling on the United States to shoulder such a grave human responsibility does not exempt the states of the Arab family from shouldering their responsibilities and from proceeding from their current stands to one backing the Egyptian stand by affirming a comprehensive Arab commitment to the basic principles for the establishment of peace, namely, Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, restoration of Arab sovereignty over occupied Jerusalem and recognition of the Palestinian people's inalienable rights, particularly the right of free national self-determination on their land.

AR-RA'Y adds: Jordan, which proceeds from the premise of its pan-Arab affiliation and its ties to the common Arab cause, senses its duties. It found itself committed to adopt such a principled stand regarding fraternal Egypt. Proceeding from this premise, it called on the Arab brethren to support Egypt in confronting the Israeli aggression. It also called on the international community to shoulder its responsibility regarding world peace and security.

We hope for and look forward to a wide-scale Arab move which will crystalize a unified Arab stand based on a clearly-defined strategy with definite objectives by calling for a summit conference during which the Arab leaders will share their responsibilities and commitments to the requisites of the current stage.

A stumbling peace hides behind it the card of destructive war. Israel, which is trying to acquire land and peace and security at the same time, is exposing the peace and security of the area and the world to certain catastrophe by seeking to impose a policy of fait accompli.

The newspaper AD-DUSTUR believes that President as-Sadat has divested Israel of the security pretext behind which its rulers conceal their aggressive and expansionist designs. He proclaimed to the entire world community that withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination are two points which are beyond dispute.

In a commentary published today entitled "Divesting Israel of the Security Pretext," the newspaper says: A clarification of these facts was necessary so that the American people will realize that the arms arsenal with which they have supplied Israel through the taxes they pay has led to results contrary to those they anticipated. Instead of viewing U.S. arms as a reassuring factor encouraging them to progress toward genuine peace, in which Arab rights and sovereignty are not violated, Israel's rulers view these arms as fodder for their conceit and intransigence enabling them to turn their backs on the present opportunity for peace which might not be repeated again.

At these criticial moments, the entire international community shoulders a historic responsibility enjoining it to support Egypt's clear and just position confronting the Israeli maneuvers in the peace talks. In the official statement issued yesterday, prior to President as-Sadat's speech, Jordan found it incumbent upon itself to call on the international community to shoulder it responsibility and on the Arabs to support the Egyptian position. The statement expressed, before anything else, Jordan's total support for the Egyptian stand in the talks.

Now that President as-Sadat has exposed the Israeli side internationally, the requisites of the current stage need a reunfied Arab move in the international arena which will affirm that all the Arabs consider Israeli intransigence not only an Egyptian-Israeli confrontation but also a defiance of the entire Arab nation.

SARKIS RECEIVES JORDAN'S SENATE PRESIDENT

JN201931Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis today received Bahjat at-Talhuni, Senate president and chairman of the Federation of Arab Parliamentarians. The meeting was attended by Kamil al-As'ad, chairman of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, and by the Jordanian charge d'affaires in Beirut.

At-Talhuni told JNA correspondent in Beirut that he conveyed greetings from His Majesty King Husayn to Ilyas Sarkis and Jordan's wishes for security and stability to fraternal Lebanon. He said that he reviewed the results of the consultations and contacts held by officials in the Syrian People's Assembly and the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies which pertain to Arab parliamentary affairs. He further said that Sarkis expressed his deep appreciation of His Majesty King Husayn. Sarkis thanked His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad for the great role he is playing in Lebanon's unity and stability.

At-Talhuni and Kamil al-As'ad discussed issues related to Arab parliamentary affairs and the contacts being held with Arab countries.

ITALIAN COMMUNISTS MEET WITH NATIONALISTS

JN201720Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Jan 78 JN

[Text]The members of the Central Political Council of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement met in Beirut today with the Italian Communist Party delegation. The meeting dealt with the Arab situation and the tasks of the progressive forces at the present stage in facing the imperialist and reactionary plots in the Arab region. The delegation of the Central Political Council reviewed the current Lebanese situation and the role of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement in preparing the atmosphere to overcome the crisis and achieve national detente.

The Italian Communist Party delegation arrived in Beirut the day before yesterday and met with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and a number of resistance leaders.

DETERRENT FORCES DISCOVER PHALANGIST PRISON

NC221017Y Doha GNA in Arabic 0851 GMT 22 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 22 January--The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN, in a dispatch from Beirut, reports today that the Arab Deterrent Forces in Lebanon have discovered a Phalangist prison with 250 detainees in it, including over 50 Palestinians. The prison is located in the area of Antilyas on the Beirut-Juniyah road. The paper points out that the prison was discovered after a prisoner had escaped from it and reported its location.

INA REPORTS FIGHTING IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

JN231038Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 23 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 23 January--The forces of the Zionist-Rightist Alliance last night launched an attack on the positions of the joint forces in the eastern and central sectors in southern Lebanon. Sources of the joint forces have stated that the Zionist and rightist forces opened artillery and machinegun fire on the nationalist positions in Al-Khiyam and Jabal al-Balat. These sources added that the joint forces returned the fire and that the exchange of fire continued until 2200 and then turned into intermittent firing until morning. A number of fires broke out in the southern villages as a result of the firing. The INA correspondent reported that at least four civilians were killed and others were wounded and taken to hospitals in the south.

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY APPROVES NOMINATION OF AL-ASAD

JN221317Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--At the end of the historic session held this morning, People's Assembly Speaker Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi announced the People's Assembly decision unanimously approving the proposal of the Ba'th Party Regional Command and the decision of the nomination committee nominating Comrade Hafiz Al-Asad for the post of president for the coming period.

Al-Halabi read out the text of the decision amid a storm of applause from the assembly members and those attending the session. The following is the text of the decision:

The People's Assembly, having taken cognizance of the letter of the Ba'th Party Regional Command proposing the nomination of President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of Ba'th Party, for president for a 7-year term beginning 13 March 1978 and having taken cognizance of the decision of the committee formed by the bureau of the People's Assembly to study the proposed nomination, has decided to approve the proposals of the command and the committee, to support the nomination and to present it to the citizens.

The assembly speaker then announced his decision setting the date of the plebiscite on the nomination of President Hafiz al-Asad for president of the republic. The following is the text of this decision:

The speaker of the People's Assembly, in accordance with the constitution and with the People's Assembly's decision at the session held on 22 January 1978 concerning the nomination of President Hafiz al-Asad for president, and in accordance with the People's Assembly's bylaws, particularly Article 182, has decided:

Article 1--Wednesday, 8 February 1978, shall be set as the date for a plebiscite on the nomination of President Hafiz al-Asad for president for a 7-year term beginning 13 March 1978.

Article 2--This decision shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall be passed to those necessary to implement it.

Damascus, 22 January 1978.

The session was then adjourned until Tuesday evening.

At the end of the session, the assembly speaker, the prime minister, ministers, members of the assembly's bureau, and the members of the assembly proceeded to the main door of the assembly building where they looked out on the assembled masses. These masses were informed of the assembly's decision approving the nomination of President Hafiz al-Asad. Cheers for the life of the dutiful son of the people leader Hafiz al-Asad were shouted. Songs were also sung and dancing circles were set up in rejoicing and support for this historic decision.

Al-Asad Accepts Nomination

JN222001Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 22 Jan 78 JN

[Excerpts] At 1500 today President Hafiz al-Asad received People's Assembly speaker Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi and members of the assembly's bureau who came to inform the president of the unanimous decision of the assembly to approve the nomination of the president for president of the republic for the next 7 years.

The president accepted the decision of the assembly with thanks and expressed his pride over this unanimous trust of the People's Assembly. The president said that he considered the trust of the assembly and the broad masses of the people the greatest asset on which he relied during the past stage. This trust, he said, will remain the main support and his main weapon to face the difficulties standing in the way of all aspects of the national march. The president affirmed that nothing can match this trust in its importance and effect on the work to achieve the aspirations of the people.

ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR VISIT

JN211300Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 Jan 78 JN

[Text] A delegation of the Italian Communist Party led by Comrade Giancarlo Pajetta' a member of the party's Politburo arrived this morning in Syria from Beirut at the invitation of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command.

The delegation was welcomed near the shooting club by Dr Comrade Fawwaz Sayyagh, member of the National Command and chief of the Foreign Relations Office, and a number of party members.

The SANA correspondent has learned that official talks between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Italian Communist Party will begin this evening at the party's National Command headquarters. The talks will deal with the current political situation in the Middle East, particularly following As-Sadat's visit to occupied Jerusalem and his meeting with the leaders of the Zionist enemy. The talks will also deal with the general situation and the current crisis in Italy. During its visit, the delegation will meet with a number of comrade officials in the party's command.

Received by Al-Asad

JN231145Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 23 Jan 78 JN

[Text] At 1015 today President Hafiz al-Asad received Giancarlo Pajetta, member of the secretariat of the Italian Communist Party and head of the Foreign Relations Office, and (Antonio Robi), deputy head of the Foreign Relations Office.

Pajetta is heading the delegation of the Italian Communist Party which is currently visiting Syria. The meeting was attended by Comrade Dr Fawwaz Sayyagh, head of the Foreign Relations Office in the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

During the meeting discussion centered on relations between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Italian Communist Party and on ways to strengthen these relations. Discussion also dealt with relations between the Syrian Arab Republic and Italy.

Pajetta reviewed the situation in Europe. President al-Asad explained the situation in the Arab area and the negative effects caused by the visit of the head of the Egyptian regime to the enemy, a visit which has ruined the efforts for a just peace in the area.

Pajetta expressed the pleasure of the Italian Communist Party delegation at visiting Syria and at the results of its talks with the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation. He thanked the president for giving them the chance to listen to his explanations on the developments in the Middle East. He emphasized Syria's important role in this area, which is passing through a sensitive stage in terms of the area and the world.

Meets Ba'thist Officials

JN221714Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 22 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Comarde 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Ba'th Party assistant secretary general, received at noon today a delegation of the Italian Communist Party [PCI] led by Comrade Giancarlo Pajetta, member of the PCI secretariat and head of the Foreign Relations Office. The meeting was attended by Comrade Fawwaz Sayyagh, member of the Ba'th Party National Command and head of the Foreign Relations Office.

During the meeting the two sides reviewed the relations of friendship and cooperation between the Ba'th Party and the PCI and the means to boost the ties of friendship in the service of both parties and peoples.

PAPER ACCUSES AS-SADAT OF LIES, CONSPIRACY

JN220818Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 22 Jan 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "As-Sadat Reveals a New Dimension of His Connections," the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH says: In a theatrical speech last evening, As-Sadat stated that Israel's leaders have exploited his visit and what followed it to benefit from the time element, to justify their holding on to the occupied Arab territories and to maneuver under the pretext of seeking Israel's security. This is the result As-Sadat said he had reached following his capitulatory visit and his spineless steps more than two months after his defeatist decision, after throwing himself in the laps of the Zionist leaders and after reneging on the Arab nation's goals and selling out the Egyptian Arab people's will.

Was the Arab citizen ingnorant of these facts? The answer is clear to all the sons of this nation, for it stems from their knowledge of the nature of their enemy and their conviction of his greed.

ATH-THAWRAH adds: As-Sadat also announced that he was ready to resume his capitulation to the enemy, justifying this by propaganda and boasting about Washington's favors to him and his policy. He said that he had asked Washington for arms, admitting that he did so not to fight Israel but because he has large responsibilities in the area and in Africa too.

ATH-THAWRAH stresses that As-Sadat did not recall his delegation to the Jerusalem talks because he refuses to continue the capitulatory talks with the leaders of the enemy, but because he wants to provide Washington with a new role commensurate with what he has been contending since the October war about the 99 percent of the cards in the game. He wants to do this in a theatrical session in which he would present Washington as the savior of the Egyptian people and the area and as the one who is keen on the security and peace of the peoples in the area. He will thus pave the way for the role Washington wants him to play not only in the Middle East but also throughout Africa.

These are some of the highlights of the review As-Sadat yesterday presented in the theatre of his conspiracy. These are also part of the events of As-Sadat's theatrical show, which oscillated between deceptive calm and shouting, portraying the loss of nerve he suffers from, as he realizes the Arab citizen in Egypt and elsewhere is exposing As-Sadat's cards one after the other. He did not hesitate to take refuge in outright lies when he discussed Syria's stand on the Geneva conference and told the people that he was the only one to carry the banner of peace in accordance with his defeatist understanding of that concept.

We believe that the Arab citizen now realizes more than ever As-Sadat's steps and the far-reaching effects of his capitulation and that his policy is linked not only with imposing a U.S.-Zionist solution on the area but also spreads to implementing Washington's will in Africa too.

AL-BA'TH: AS-SADAT FOLLOWS U.S. DICTATES

JN220911Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 22 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 22 January--The newspaper AL-BA'TH today comments on President as-Sadat's visit to occupied Palestine, his negotiations with the enemy leaders and the Arab attitude toward this visit.

AL-BA'TH today says: As-Sadat has proceeded along the road he has chosen, closing his ears to the free Arab voices raised everywhere in our homeland protesting his capitulatory course and his violation of Arab unanimity and accusing him of betraying the Arab nation and of allying himself with its enemies.

The paper asks: What did As-Sadat reap from his visit? What did the Arabs gain from it two months later? Did As-Sadat succeed in persuading Israel to withdraw from all the Arab territories occupied in the 1967 aggression, including Jerusalem, or to recognize the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination and an independent state?

AL-BA'TH emphasizes that the established and clear fact shows that As-Sadat has succeeded only in dealing a poisonous stab in the back of the Arab nation and the Egyptian people, who are an integral part of the Arab nation. Concerning Israel, As-Sadat achieved only failure with his capitulatory stands. Israel was not content with increasing its inflexibility and intransigence but further indulged its arrogance and conceit by submitting proposals which would not have occurred to anyone and which it would not have dared think of but for President as-Sadat's spineless stands. Israel declared it would never agree to go back to the pre-1967 lines, would not agree to give up the settlements set up in the occupied territories and would never recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to an independent state.

Israel's conceit did not end here but went further by rejecting withdrawal from the West Bank and the Gaza Sector. Israeli proposed to grant Arabs in these areas an autonomy under Israeli occupation and also proposed the annexation of large areas of occupied Arab territories in return for dismantling a number of settlements set up in Arab territories. But then these are the results we have been expecting.

Has As-Sadat realized his error and miscalculation? It is obvious that As-Sadat has not realized this fact yet and this is evidenced by his spectacular speech delivered yesterday at the People's Assembly. In this speech, As-Sadat affirmed his adherence to the spineless capitulatory stand in harmony with U.S. President Carter's desire. As-Sadat also continued his attack on the Arab nation, scoring its will to hold fast against its enemies and to resist and foil their plots with the arms the nation possesses and which As-Sadat knows more than anyone else can achieve victory for our people in the fateful battle they are waging against Israel and those who stand behind it.

ALGERIA

BOUTEFLIKA REPORTS TO MINISTERS ON BOUMEDIENE'S TOUR

LD222225Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Jan 78 LD

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers met at 1000 today under the chairmanship of President Houari Boumediene, president of the republic and chairman of the Council of the Revolution.

Brother Abdelaziz Bouteflika, member of the Revolution Council and foreign minister, reported on the important visit the Algerian delegation, under the leadership of Chairman Houari Boumediene, made to 11 Arab countries, the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia and Malta.

The Council of Ministers, while expressing satisfaction with the warm reception given to the Algerian delegation in each country, goes on record as completely satisfied with the positive results of this tour and the good effect it will have both at bilateral levels and at the level of solidarity against imperialism and Zionism at this crucial stage through which the Arab world is passing.

The foreign minister lauded the loyalty of the Arab countries visited by the Algerian delegation to the aims that had been defined by the Algiers and Rabat summit conferences. He also projected the identity of views of Algerian and Soviet and Yugoslav leaders concerning the appraisal of the situation in the Middle East, the Arab Maghreb area.

The foreign minister affirmed Algeria's support for Malta's neutrality, and the need to strengthen ties of friendship and cooperation with this country. In this connection, the Council of Ministers believes that the good political relations Algeria has with a number of fraternal and friendly Arab, African and socialist countries must find their extension in the continuing development of economic cooperation and trade exchanges.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM KING HUSAYN

LD211028Y Tripoli JANA in English 0819 GMT 21 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, January 21, JANA:--Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the revolution leader yesterday received a message from King Husayn of Jordan. The message stressed the steadfast stand of Jordan against the surrender solutions and negotiations of disgrace between the Zionists and the Egyptian regime. The message said Jordan's stand from the very beginning was firm in support of the Palestinian issue and we had stressed this stand at all Arab and international forums.

It said our stand emanates from the national satisfaction and is derived from the long history of struggle of the united Arab nation ever since the beginning of the Palestinian issue.

AL-QADHDHAFI RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM BOUMEDIENE

LD211156Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1015 GMT 21 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli--Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, minister counselor to President Boumediene and member of the Algerian Council of the Revolution, this morning arrived in Tripoli. He made a statement to JANA's representative in which he said: I am carrying a private message from Algerian President Houari Boumediene to brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. leader of the revolution. My visit comes within the framework of the existing bilateral and fraternal relations between the two friendly countries and to continue the work of the countries that took part in the Tripoli solidarity and challenge summit conference in support of the Palestinian resistance.

AL-QADHDHAFI DEPARTS FOR VISIT TO NIGER

LD2212542 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Jan 78 LD

[Excerpt] Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution, this morning left for Niger on an official visit lasting several days at the invitation of President Seyni Kountche. The brother colonel is accompanied for this visit with an official delegation which includes the brothers: Lt Col Mustafa al-Kharrubi, the foreign, liaison, industry secretaries, and the directors of the African department and technical cooperation at the Foreign Secretariat.

AL-QADHDHAFI ADDRESSES BANQUET IN MIAMEY, NIGER

LD2310422 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 23 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Niamey, 23 January--Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi delivered a speech at a banquet held in his honor by Seyni Kountche, chairman of the Supreme Military Council and president of Niger, in Niamey last night. Here is the text of his speech:

Dear brother chairman of the supreme military council and President of Niger Seyni Kountche, dear Nigerien brothers. My delegation and I are happy to be with you here today in our second homeland, Niger.

The development of relations between our two countries is, for us, an act of fulfillment to our common history, common geography and the common religion of the Libyan Arab and Nigerien people.

Unless we strengthen and develop these relations for the benefit of the two peoples, we would be betraying these historical values which bind us together.

It is a pleasure for us to be here to meet one of the leaders of the African continent during these times when plots are being hatched anew against this continent. The leaders of the African Continent vitally need to meet and coordinate their efforts now more than at any time in the past. This is because the plot that is being hatched now aims at the exploitation of Africa after it has attained independence following a long and bitter struggle.

We have all been astounded by the statements by some foreign leaders. These statements constitute a flagrant interference in African affairs. We must not confine ourselves to astonishment but we must resist foreign intervention by all means.

The Jamahiriyah, which occupies a strategic position in the African Continent, is the big gate of Africa in the north. It possesses material capabilities for influencing the course of world events. It is leading a new civilization heralded by the green book. It has broad and positive relations with most members of the international community.

All these factors place on Libya a duty toward the African peoples. Under no circumstances can the Jamahiriyah stand idle in the face of the imperialist offensive being waged against the African Continent.

We have been surprised and angered, for example, by the statements from France. The French statements take us back to the days of the law of the jungle and the defunct colonialist era.

According to these statements, the African Continent is open to the armies of France. But we say that the African peoples will most certainly resist this and must resist.

Furthermore, the meetings held by and the statements issued by the group of European countries concerning the Horn of Africa are no less serious. These statements constitute an interference in the internal affairs of the African Continent--affairs that concern peoples of the continent only. The Africans must resist these statements and what will result from them.

Foreign intervention in whatever form and from whatever quarter must be resisted by the African countries. Those who believe they can bring imperialism back to Africa are bound to lose.

The bolstering of ties between the Jamahiriyah and Niger falls within this framework. It adds strength to the African ranks in the face of imperialist intervention.

Perhaps the serious question is that of the Western Sahara. It too is one of the vestiges of imperialism in Africa. The Western Sahara has become an extremely dangerous sport and one of the extremely hot spots in Africa. The Saharan people, who are African people, are daily sending their sons to fight for freedom and self-determination. [passage indistinct]

We work for the unity of the Arab nation and the African Continent. We would have liked to see unity take place between the Sahara, Mauritania and Morocco. But the Saharan people resist these regimes and nobody can force them to unite with them. We are anxious that the African unity conference scheduled to convene in Libreville will succeed in solving this problem for the sake of the world in general and the Africans in particular.

As we see it, the conflict in the Horn of Africa is an internal African problem which Africa can overcome. But we warn against the imperialist interference in purely African problems. This interference only helps to complicate and aggravate matters. Interference by the European countries in general and foreign countries in a problem such as the problem of the Horn of Africa threatens world peace. There is no doubt at all about this.

Perhaps the imperialist power was encouraged when the positions of racism consolidated in Palestine and in South Africa. But we want to tell the imperialists that this consolidation of the positions of the imperialists in Palestine and in South Africa is only superficial. The Palestine people and the people of South Africa will continue their resistance until they achieve final victory over racism in Palestine and in South Africa.

Libya has said this and done this before and repeats it now: Libya places all its capabilities at the disposal of the Palestinian people and the peoples of southern Africa who are fighting against racism in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa.

Libya also places its economic capabilities in the service of the African economy. It now offers the principle of partnership which will bring good to the Libyan Arab people and the African peoples who join this system of partnership. Perhaps some of the African peoples have already felt the advantages of this joint cooperation between them and the Jamahiriyah.

We wish to affirm that our country does not offer mere words to the Africans. It offers tangible actions. Our country does so sincerely believing that the freedom of Africa is its own freedom. Our country believes that unless Africa is economically liberated, its political liberation will be false.

Joint cooperation between the Jamahiriyah and Niger provide perhaps an example of this. We are determined to make this joint cooperation between the Jamahiriyah and Niger an example to be followed in Africa. We would have liked this to have been the case with all our African neighbors. We would have liked our neighbors, the people of Chad, not to be deprived of joint cooperation between us and them. [passage indistinct]

I am anxious to declare here in Niamey, one of the African capitals, and before the representatives of a number of foreign countries and before the people of Niger that my country has no problem with Chad and is ready at any moment to open its borders with Chad and to cooperate with it without any reservation. I challenge the Government of Chad to prove that there is a serious problem that prevents such cooperation and the opening of borders between the two countries.

I hope that the OAU and the sincere leaders of Africa such as brother President Seyni will succeed in restoring normalcy between the two countries because we believe that such differences cannot be of any advantage to Africa--indeed they will only harm the African interests.

I am pleased to express my gratitude and that of the people of the Jamahiriyah for the visits Seyni Kountche made to our country. We feel indebted to him because of these visits. My visit is not sufficient to return his favor because it is only one compared to many he made to our country. Thank you.

MAURITANIA

OULD DADDAH DISCUSSES ALGERIAN THREAT TO MAURITANIA

LD201539Y Paris LE MONDE in French 19 Jan 78 pp 1, 5 LD

[Daniel Junqua report on Nouakchott interview with Mauritanian President Moktar Ould Daddah--date not specified]

[Excerpt] "Our country," President Ould Daddah told us, "is experiencing an important phase in its development. It has a number of problems. The drought which has been raging in our part of the world for several years is once again apparent after a respite during the winter of 1976-1977. Some 80 percent of our population live in the countryside.

"We are also affected by world inflation in two ways: Owing to an unfavorable international situation marked by a crisis in the steel industry, we can no longer sell all the iron we produce; on the other hand, the prices of the manufactured goods which we buy have increased considerably.

"Others besides ourselves are experiencing difficulties of this kind. But in addition we have to deal with the problem which is peculiar to us: the war imposed on us by Algeria following our national reunification when the province which Spain colonized was restored to our country.

"In view of this situation, our party is obliged to mobilize itself more than it has done hitherto. We are forced to take austerity measures so as to use our resources in the best possible way.

[Question] Mauritania, whose armed forces have increased from 3,000 to 14,000 men, has already contributed a very sizeable effort. The people have been called upon to make an exceptional show of national solidarity. Is it possible to go further?

[Answer] We do not intend to propose new taxes at the congress, or to reduce civil service staffing. But we must show greater discipline in administration.

The problem is mainly one of heightening awareness throughout the country. Everyone must face the difficulties actively and not just passively. To achieve this result, the citizens must be told exactly why they are being asked to make this effort and must accurately weight the seriousness of the situation.

President Ould Daddah does not see the three "challenges" which his country must face as being on the same level. In his view, the most serious danger is the war, a war which, he says, is "desired and waged by Algeria."

"They do not just want to teach us a lesson," he declared. "The Algerian leaders are out for our surrender or our death. They will never obtain the former. But they may cause the latter if they manage to destroy our economy. It is clear that this is their objective. The ruthlessness that they are showing toward us proves that they do not just want to bring down a regime but the Mauritanian nation itself."

[Question] Is there unanimous agreement within the party on the official analysis, which refutes that the POLISARIO has any autonomous existence and ignores the problem of self-determination for the peoples of the Western Sahara? Do the young people who have rallied to the Mauritanian People's Party on the basis of a "charter of progress and emancipation" since the 1975 "clarification" congress support "reunification" and the war effort wholeheartedly?

"Yes," the head of state replies unhesitatingly, stating that, "the union achieved in 1975 has been strengthened by the ordeal." He cites as proof the work of the youth congress held last August. "Of course," he adds, "absolute unanimity does not exist. Some activists are troubled because this war is causing losses and prisoners. Some sectors of the population find that their economic activities are hampered and long for the good old days. Some people wish that things would get better. That is natural, but it does not lead to the creation of a generalized, organized, established current of opinion."

When the president is asked if he does not rank among the dangers threatening Mauritania's existence the presence of some 6,000 Moroccan soldiers on national territory and its growing dependence on Rabat, he replies:

"Basically, by disputing our existence in the early years of our independence Morocco did us a good turn. We came into being in the context which forced us to resist and to become aware of our identity.

"It is true that there are several thousand Moroccan soldiers in our country. But, make no mistake, the cure is not worse than the illness. Morocco has not only become a fraternal country, but a friend and ally. Unfortunately, the Algerian leaders have become enemies, and I assure you it makes me suffer to pronounce these words.

"The first essential is for us to resist Algeria. We cannot do this using our own resources. So we have appealed to our allies, to those who want to help us. Personally, I am convinced that Morocco's assessment of what its relations should be with Mauritania has evolved. I trust Morocco and I am sure that it will not attempt to achieve quietly what it was unable to bring about by forceful means in the past. In other words, I am sure that the day the Algerian attacks cease, when we tell our Moroccan brothers: 'Thank you, now you can go home,' they will not turn round and reply: 'We are here and we are staying!'"

MOROCCO

HASSAN SYMPATHETIC TOWARD AS-SADAT'S BREAKING OFF TALKS

LD201502Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Following the suspension of the Egyptian-Israeli talks His Majesty King Hassan II has sent a message to Egyptian President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat. Here is the text:

His excellency, dear brother, Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat, since we blessed your courageous step by going to Jerusalem to achieve peace we have been following with profound interest your efforts to achieve this aim. Today we have learned with deep regret that you were forced to make the decision to suspend the talks you started with the Israelis as a result of the hardened attitude of the Israeli negotiator and his insistence on clinging to his conditions which conflict with the legitimate Arab rights and the resolutions of the United Nations.

When we strove to support you we had no doubt that you are a negotiator qualified to defend the cause of the whole Arab nation. We were certain that your genuine desire to achieve an Arab-Israeli peace would not make you forget in all the steps you would be taking the Arab aims unanimously agreed on at the 1974 Rabat summit conference. We were confident that you were the best to submit the question of the Arab-Israeli conflict to lift the bogey of occupation from the Arab territories and to restore the legitimate rights to the Arabs of Palestine and subsequently lay down all-embracing security for all the states in this part of the world.

You continue to state that your peace initiative is an all-embracing initiative which does not exclude any of the elements which constitute the Arab-Israeli dispute. You have insistently banished the likelihood of signing of a separate truce if it did not achieve for Egypt all its targets and aims.

Your stand today comes to prove what we expected of you and the hopes we built on you. By this stand you banish any suspect peace which would not be fair to the legitimate rights of the Arabs and subsequently would not realize the aspiration for genuine peace. We still hope that all brothers concerned with the Israeli occupation will stand by your side and will place all their weight to apply pressure with you on the occupier to lift the bogey of occupation of the victim and so that the joint efforts produce decisive and positive results. May your stand today summon solidarity and understanding among the Arab family and provide an opportunity for the wills and efforts to rally together again.

We hope that the Israeli side will come to his senses and give you and your brethren directly concerned with the matter the opportunity to resume negotiations, but this time on a reasonable basis which takes into consideration the legitimate rights of the Arabs and respaonds to the will of the international community which denounced the forceable occupation of Arab territories and which demand from the Arabs and Israel to establish a just and lasting peace for the good of the human community.

Your Excellency brother, please accept my sincerest affection and esteem.
[Signed] Your brother: Hassan II

ISRAEL POSTPONES SENDING DELEGATION TO CAIRO

TA221320Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 22 Jan 78 TA

[Text] The cabinet has unanimously decided to postpone the departure of the Israeli delegation for the talks of the Military Committee in Cairo. The decision was taken after a meeting at the prime minister's office in Jerusalem that lasted 3 hours. Prime Minister Menahem Begin announced the decision to the journalists:

[Begin--apparently recorded] The cabinet has unanimously made the following decision: It was decided by the Egyptian president and the Israeli prime minister at the Ismailia conference to set up a Military Committee in Cairo and a Political Committee in Jerusalem for the continuation of the negotiations between the two countries. Between the Ismailia conference and the beginning of the deliberations of the Political Committee in Jerusalem, a campaign of severe blows [pegi'ot] was conducted in Egypt against Israel and its government. Egyptian papers even used well-known anti-Semitic expressions.

While the Political Committee was conducting its deliberations, making progress toward an agreement about a joint declaration of principles, President as-Sadat suddenly decided to call the Egyptian delegation back to Cairo. This is how the deliberations of the Political Committee, in which U.S. Secretary of State Vance also participated, were stopped.

President as-Sadat has made an offensive speech before the People's Assembly in which he also included demands of an ultimative nature unacceptable to Israel.

Under the present circumstances, the Israeli Government has decided to postpone the departure of the Israeli delegation to the Military Committee deliberations in Cairo. The cabinet will soon again discuss the sending of the Israeli delegation to the Military Committee. We hope that in the coming days the Egyptian Government will take action to prevent blows at the honor of the Jewish people and the Jewish state and will create an appropriate atmosphere for the conduct of peaceful negotiations, which Israel is still interested in. [end recording]

The prime minister will make an announcement in the Knesset tomorrow, an announcement in which he will also reply to President as-Sadat's speech.

Peres Praises Decision

TA221730Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Jan 78 TA

[Text] The head of the Labor Party, Shim'on Peres, has expressed agreement with the cabinet's decision that it is useless to continue the deliberations of the Military Committee unless the political negotiations are held at the same time. Talking with our correspondent, the head of the Labor Party said that in his opinion King Husayn should be given a part in the deliberations concerning the issues of Judaea and Samaria and Egypt should be freed from conducting negotiations in this sphere in the name of the Jordanian people. Shim'on Peres also said that in his opinion the differences of opinion regarding the issues pertaining to the Sinai Peninsula can be resolved.

Reaction of Knesset Members

TA221907Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 22 Jan 78 TA

[Text] The head of the Labor Party, Shim'on Peres, has expressed agreement with the cabinet's decision that it is pointless to continue the deliberations of the Military Committee if political negotiations are not held at the same time. He expressed the opinion that King Husayn should participate in the discussions concerning the issues of Judaea and Samaria.

In contrast, two MAPAM Knesset members expressed concern about the government's decision. MK Naftali Feder said that it is a grave mistake and that, in his opinion, the Israeli Government must not act out of considerations of prestige. MK Hayya Grossman said that we too have made a series of mistakes and, among other things, conducted negotiations through the communications media.

MAFDAL MK David Glass also reacted negatively to the government decision, saying that it should not have closed the last opening left for negotiations with Egypt. MK Glass noted that he does not think that all the blame should be placed on the Egyptian president since personages here as well, including the prime minister, made remarks that constituted a blow at the Arabs and were insulting to them.

Likud MK Avraham Sharir said that there is indeed deep disappointment among large sectors of the public with the difficulties in the negotiations with Egypt but that the government did not, in fact, have a choice due to Egypt's decision to suspend the talks of the Political Committee. He expressed the hope that the Egyptians will now take steps that will make it possible to resume the deliberations of the Political and Military committees at the same time.

Jerusalem Sources Comment

TA221611Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 22 Jan 78 TA

[From the Afternoon Newsreel]

[Text] The Israeli Government is now waiting for a period of calm in the Egyptian remarks. Only if the declarations in the nature of ultimatuims to Israel are stopped will the government decide to resume the military deliberations. This was said by sources in the capital who explained the cabinet decision. Our political correspondent Yosi La'or has details about this. [begin recording]

[La'or] The Israeli Government decision today is based on the general approach of the prime minister to the present political crisis. Mr Begin has lately repeatedly said that an approach of coolness and firmness should be adopted with regard to As-Sadat's steps. This phrase of coolness and firmness is taken by the prime minister from an article written by Ze'ev Jabotinsky, an article published in 1973.

What are the reasons for this decision? First, it is said in the capital, Israel wants to make it clear to Egypt that it will not agree to negotiations along the lines of the Arab summit conferences in which it is customary to slam the door on every possible opportunity. [as heard] Another reason, it is explained in the capital, is the alternative path of negotiations initiated by the United States. Alfred Atherton, the U.S. assistant secretary of state, yesterday offered his good offices to the prime minister. Atherton will continue the contacts between Egypt and Israel, and the resumption of the Political Committee deliberations will be considered against the background of the results of these contacts.

The assistant secretary of state will probably maintain the clarification efforts regarding the Palestinian formula and will probably want to reach a mutually agreeable Israeli-Egyptian declaration of principles. The government thus makes its position clear today without closing the door for the continuation of the talks.

The Israeli delegation in Cairo will not be recalled to Israel. However, the head of the delegation, Maj Gen Avraham Tamir, was asked in the afternoon to return to Israel for consultations. The cabinet decision was also passed on to Cairo through the United States. In the meantime, no date for a cabinet meeting has been set in Jerusalem, but the reactions and developments in Cairo are being awaited here. If calm develops regarding the Egyptian declarations, the cabinet will decide to resume the military talks. [end recording]

ATHERTON REPORTS TO BEGIN ON VANCE-AS-SADAT TALKS

TA212129Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 21 Jan 78 TA

[Text] The meeting between Prime Minister Begin, Foreign Minister Dayan and the U.S. assistant secretary of state, Alfred Atherton, ended about half an hour ago. Mr Atherton reported to the prime minister about Cyrus Vance's talks with President as-Sadat in Cairo. In reply to a question by our political correspondent, the U.S. assistant secretary of state said that he intends to remain in the region in order to keep up the contacts aimed at the resumption of the political negotiations. Our political correspondent Shalom Qital reports from the prime minister's house.

[Qital--live] The meeting lasted 2 hours. At the end of the meeting Alfred Atherton said that he came on behalf of Secretary Vance. [begin recording]

[Atherton, in English] As the secretary said after the meeting with President as-Sadat, he feels that the door to peace has not been closed, that efforts must go forward to find ways to continue the peace process. We have discussed these possibililies this evening and I think we will continue to pursue this objective. Thank you. [end recording]

[Qital] Then Prime Minister Begin tells us: [begin recording]

[Begin] A good week to you. I am grateful to our friend Mr Atherton for the information he passed on to the foreign minister and myself in the presence of Ambassador Sam Lewis and the legal adviser [Me'ir Rosenne] and Mr Rubinstein [not further identified] about the talk Secretary of State Vance had with President as-Sadat in Cairo. We heard important details.

I must immediately note that we have not yet listened--since we did not have the opportunity--to President as-Sadat's speech in Cairo. It is clear that this speech carries great importance concerning the decisions we will take in tomorrow's cabinet meeting. Tomorrow, at the cabinet meeting, we will decide whether or not to send our delegation to participate in the Military Committee. As I told you a few days ago, our decision on this matter will be made at the cabinet's weekly session. [end recording]

[Qital] The prime minister's statement after the meeting with Alfred Atherton. This is Shalom Qital returning you to the studio.

NOUVELLE OBSERVATEUR INTERVIEWS BEGIN ON TALKS

TA211455Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 21 Jan 78 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Begin has said that the Egyptian Government apparently suffered from an illusion or entertained a dream when it thought that Israel would give in to its demands. The Egyptian Government apparently wanted to create a climate of tension. It wants to engender pressures in Europe and the United States against Israel. However, all had better know that no one can exert pressure on us. The prime minister said this in an interview published in the Paris paper NOUVELLE OBSERVATEUR.

He emphasized that we had already been on the threshold of a first agreement when the order to stop the negotiations arrived from Cairo. Egypt apparently thought that we would agree to the illusory formula of an immediate withdrawal from Sinai, Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. It was thought that we would say yes to what is called the Palestinian state. This is absurd.

The prime minister mentioned that President as-Sadat did not at all protest when he was told in Jerusalem that Israel would not agree to divide Jerusalem and that it was not prepared to withdraw to the 1967 borders.

DAYAN INTERVIEWED ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

TA202050Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1820 GMT 20 Jan 78 TA

[Interview with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan by Ram 'Evron in Jerusalem television studios--live]

[Text] Both in Jerusalem and Cairo the speech of As-Sadat before the Egyptian parliament is being awaited, since it was not only the Israelis but also the members of the Egyptian delegation headed by Foreign Minister Kamil who were surpised by the suspension of the talks. Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan is in the studio with us. Mr Dayan, you were mentioned in a quote of President as-Sadat's remarks. I am not sure how precise this quote is. However, at the end of the remarks made by Mr as-Sadat he was asked by our correspondent [the correspondent in Cairo] about the contest of arrogance between the two countries. Is the situation we find ourselves in indeed one of competition over the degree of arrogance? Is this the rub?

[Answer] I do not think so. This cannot be concluded from As-Sadat's remarks either. What he says, as I have just heard, is that he wants an Israeli promise that our settlements be removed from Egyptian land in the Rafah approaches before the resumption of the discussions of the Political Committee...

['Evron, interrupting] I have a question on this point which seems very strange. The Egyptians, if I am not mistaken, demanded the transfer of this issue of Israeli settlements in the Rafah approaches to the Military Committee. Is this not so?

[Answer] No. In any case, I will go back to what I wanted to say. When the Military Committee was established and we came here or when the meeting in Ismailia was held or before that, As-Sadat never said: I do not have anything to talk to you about before you announce that you are ready to remove the settlements. If this is his concept now, that we should, prior to the discussions, announce that we remove the settlements from their land, he should have said this before Ismailia and before convening the Political Committee in Jerusalem and not now, when we have justly assumed--we have also assumed that this is what he also assumes--that there is a reality which resulted from the 1967 war begun by the Egyptians, a reality for which he is not responsible--it was President 'Abd an-Nasir who was responsible for it--and that there are various problems, military, political and civilian problems which we will discuss.

In these discussions we can surely demand the evacuation of the settlements. We do not reject his right to demand this. We do not say that we will not discuss this. However, if he wants us to come, state and commit ourselves to this before the negotiations, he should have said this long ago. Second, what he says here applies also to the Golan Heights, to Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, and also--and he emphasized this in the Knesset as well--to Jerusalem. I do not want to argue with you instead of with As-Sadat. Yet, his logic is that what was taken by the Arabs by force, in 1948, because they defeated us in the old city, namely, Mount Scopus, the Jewish quarter and other parts, should be returned by us since this was the line they had held until 1967. In other words, they deserve this, should have Arab sovereignty there. Why do they deserve this? They took it by force, in war. At any rate, if we return to the central question of what will happen and what As-Sadat proposes--if As-Sadat indeed proposes that we commit ourselves in advance on things that should be discussed, then this looks to be an impasse.

[Question] In other words, if he adheres to his demand and the Israeli Government's position remains unchanged, this is the end of the road?

[Answer] If he indeed wants the Israeli Government to announce in advance, before the deliberations take place, that it remove the settlements and that this also holds true for military airfields and also--according to the paper they submitted--for the Golan Heights and Jerusalem, I assume that the reply of the Israeli Government will be negative. If this is not so, we will not have anything to discuss, and deliberations may not be held then.

[Question] In your opinion, was his last move influenced to a certain extent by pressure from the other Arab countries?

[Answer] I think so. However, it is difficult for me, in my role as the foreign minister, to come and interpret things and speak in his name, to come and say what motivated As-Sadat to adopt this or that position. Nonetheless, I can say that a considerable change has occurred in his position since the period of initial contacts and the contacts that even preceded the meetings with As-Sadat, the contacts held with his authorized representatives. When we submitted our plans to them, including the plans regarding the settlements--and we have not changed any of the plans for the worse since--their approach at the time was: This can serve as a basis for negotiations. This did not mean that they agreed to this but they said: Well, under the existing circumstances, since there is an Israeli army in Egypt [in Sinai] and in Sharm ash-Shaykh, since there are settlements, then we shall proceed from this. There is a considerable difference between that approach and what I have heard now. The fact is that when we asked their delegation here what had happened and they had to account for things without possessing the information, they said: Excuse me, the media, the media [last four words in English]--in other words, the pressures of the press. I had a very enlightened talk with them at Lod Airport until 0330 [0130 GMT] in the morning. They talked more freely then. When I asked them: What is pressing you? the answer was indeed this combination of two elements--of the other Arab countries and the communications media.

[Question] Perhaps, in order to be more specific on this point, despite the fact that you said that it is not your business to interpret the other party--do you think that it is specifically the comment from the Arab countries to the effect that the Egyptian acceptance of the U.S. compromise proposal concerning the agenda of the Jerusalem conference constitutes a humiliating Egyptian surrender was the thing that had its effect?

[Answer] This also. I do not know whether you have noticed--maybe you do not follow the news in Egypt the way I do--today they published not the proposal to which they agreed but the paper they submitted, a paper from which we had already moved toward a compromise. They published this same paper which demands that we withdraw from the Golan Heights and so on.

Well, this is certainly what they said. There is a negative and harsh reaction on the part of the Arab countries to their agreement to have the version--a discussion of the principles of 242--instead of their version--Israel's withdrawal from the territories conquered by it--written into the agenda. However, I want to add something else. An additional factor which is no less important is the passage of time. Two months have elapsed and, therefore, the Arab countries and press which attacks them say: What have you concluded? What has actually happened in these 2 months since As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem? Today are you closer to achieving these objectives from which you, As-Sadat, have declared that you will not withdraw--an independent state for the Palestinians and withdrawal from all the territories? The fact that time is passing, this also led them to what they call a reassessment of the method of the Political Committee, a method that spreads and drags things over a period of time without yielding any fruits in the meantime.

[Question] There have been many reports to the effect that As-Sadat has greatly relied on a tougher U.S. approach toward Israel, on a more active partnership with the secretary of state, for example. I would like to ask you whether the Americans these days are undertaking, practically or even formally perhaps, the position of mediator that they held once?

[Answer] The Americans are certainly very active, more than ever. They also say this: that in the past they only tried to mediate between the two parties, while now they are also bringing their own proposals. When they see that the positions of the parties are unbridgeable, they say: Well, we have an American proposal. They indeed play a decisive role in this. In my opinion, this is not only a decisive but also a constructive role.

[Question] Are you not afraid of the fact the United States will exert pressure on Israel?

[Answer] I am certainly afraid of this. The question is whether we can better progress toward peace agreements with Egypt in a different way. In this context and in this world, the position of the Soviet Union or even that of Europe today, it is not more convenient for us and they do not have influence over Egypt [sentence as heard]. The United States has influence over Egypt. I am afraid that without the United States, we would not have been able to overcome the gap between our positions and the Egyptian positions in the direct talks. It is also possible that we will not succeed in the future either. It is also possible that we will get into confrontation with U.S. demands which we will not be able to accept. In such a case we will get into confrontation with them and we will say: This or that is unacceptable to us. I think that this is possible and I assume that we will be able to stand it. However, throughout the process, without U.S. mediation and proposals and without the weight the American proposals enjoy in Cairo, it is hard for me to envisage progress with Egypt.

[Question] At the beginning you said that you do not think that As-Sadat really means that this war of declarations was the central factor that motivated him. Nonetheless, looking back on things, are you not a little sorry about the rigid public statements made by the prime minister, and by yourself--statements that may or may not have insulted the Egyptians?

[Answer] First, it is easy to regret somebody else's remarks. I am not doing this. Yet, of all people on earth President as-Sadat has the least right to come up with such claims. Look, to call the Israeli prime minister Shylock, to give an interview such as that given to OCTOBER--he does not diminish the number of statements he makes. Listen to what he said today: arrogant [in English] and so on. I also do not think that the quote he cited from Begin's remarks in the Knesset is correct. But, listen to who is speaking about statements and rigid ones on top of everything. I officially began my work as chairman of the Political Committee when the Egyptian foreign minister arrived in Lod. I said only pleasant things. He, in contrast, spoke in firm and vehement language. Well, then, this cannot be unilateral.

[Question] He seemed truly insulted. Do you think that he is only pretending?

[Answer, laughing] It may be that he is pretending, I do not know. I am not an expert on pretending. I think that he indeed has the following concept: I have come to you, to Jerusalem. You in return should give me a simple announcement which states--yes, President as-Sadat, we, in return for the peace that you make with us, are prepared to withdraw from all the territories including the Golan Heights and Jerusalem and to grant the Arabs the right to establish an independent Palestinian state. Incidentally, when he speaks of peace in return for this, he sometimes says full peace with diplomatic relations and sometimes--as demonstrated in the documents the Egyptians submitted to the Political Committee and in As-Sadat's speech to the Knesset--he is much more reserved. He only spoke of the UN Charter, according to which diplomatic and economic relations are not a must. I think that this is what he indeed wants when he says: Give me this in return for this. I think, and I beg his forgiveness for this, he makes slightly absurd demands when he, for instance, says: Rely on me, from the point of your security, also in regard to the Golan Heights, when we know about the relations existing between him and the Syrian president. Suppose he can promise in the name of Egypt that once we get out of everywhere and once we evacuate all the airfields, all the settlements and Sharm ash-Shaykh, we will have security on the Egyptian border. But to say get out of the Golan Heights, rely on me in connection with your security also concerning the northern border--can he speak for Al-Asad?

[Question] Mr Dayan, do you not feel a certain discomfort over the fact that for the last 2 months Anwar as-Sadat has been the man who has determined almost all moves and their timing, that he is the man who determines the number of breaks between one move and another, together with complaining about things dragging? Do you not feel discomfort about this?

[Answer] I have felt discomfort for 30 years over the fact that we seek peace and announce all the time that we want peace. Every prime minister opens his first speech in the Knesset with the sincere announcement that he is ready to go anywhere, anytime in order to discuss peace and is usually greeted either with silence or with counter retort. Israel is in the constant position of readiness for peace. When are there talks? Of course, when one of the Arab leaders is prepared for this, we are always ready...

['Evron, interrupting] This explains the matter of the first step. Since, however, many steps and events have taken place...

[Answer] The prime minister was prepared to go to the Egyptian parliament. They did not want this...

['Evron--interrupting] I am talking about an initiative, not about an invitation.

[Answer] About what initiative: Should we impose ourselves on them? You know, we can take simple initiatives, namely, to stop. We can take this initiative: We can announce that we will not go and we will not come.

[Question] Can we do this with regard to the Military Committee?

[Answer] With regard to the Military Committee, a decision will be taken by the government on Sunday, after As-Sadat's speech, and after, what is more important, Atherton's report about the talks between Vance and As-Sadat. Such initiatives--in quotation marks--that we go home and stop playing, can be taken. However, we are, let us say, an experienced and wise people and the question is surely what next. Will we progress more toward peace without talks? I think that this is also the question that will face As-Sadat. He calls the Political Committee back, says this and that and later--will Egypt achieve its objectives better and easier without talks? Had it been able to achieve its objectives through military means, he would not have come for these talks.

['Evron] Mr Dayan, it seems to me that it is difficult to conclude this talk with the question as to whether you are optimistic or pessimistic. Therefore, I suggest that we leave things as they are. We will hear the speech tomorrow. I thank you very much, Mr Foreign Minister.

[Dayan] Thank you.

YADIN INTERVIEWED ON POLITICAL TAIKS, DMC

TA201759Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 160t GMT 20 Jan 78 TA

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister Yiga'el Yadin by Tom Segev, in the IDF Weekly Newsreel program--apparently live from the radio's studio]

[Text] [Segev] The deputy prime minister, like us, had not heard about the cessation of the talks before the official announcement.

[Yadin] It was an interesting thing. On the same day I lunched with Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamil and his assistant, Ghali, for 2 hours, from 1300 to 1500. We talked about the possibility of meeting in 2 or 3 days and so on. That was also that feeling. In the evening, a cabinet meeting was planned to discuss the course of the talks in general. At 1900 I heard this announcement on the radio. I was completely astonished. I have no doubt that Kamil was surprised, that Ghali was surprised and Vance was surprised. We were surely all surprised.

[Question] Why in fact were the talks stopped?

[Answer] It is very hard to ascertain. I believe that the real reason was that it was difficult for the Egyptians to conduct their affairs when their statesmen were sitting in Jerusalem and those making the decisions are in Cairo. It was continually difficult for them to maintain communication over this or that word...

[Segev--interrupting] In other words, a technical problem?

[Answer] I would say more than that. Perhaps they want to transfer the Political Committee to Egypt altogether. I do not really know, but maybe this kind of communication is hard for them.

Second--and this is highly probable; I have seen commentaries about this and I do not reject it--this may be an attempt to exert pressure on Israel through the Americans. These two explanations I have just raised are optimistic ones, since it may well be that a much more serious intention lurks behind this. I believe we will be much wiser tomorrow, after we hear As-Sadat's speech.

[Question] Was there, in your opinion, anything we could do in order to prevent this crisis?

[Answer] No, I do not think so. In my opinion, there was no reason for the way the crisis happened. There were arguments that day but these were arguments that, in part, on certain clauses, were even positively concluded. I can rely on the talk I held with Kamil and Ghali, for example. They presented the central problem--they said that we should take Egypt's problems into consideration. They said that if we do not find a satisfactory solution to the Palestinian problem, it should be understood that it will be difficult or impossible to reach an agreement. They spoke of the time problem as an important one but--they told me and so I have understood--that time means weeks or so, not hours. So, if my analysis is correct, I do not think that anything special could be done. It is possible that some of the things that had been done or said served as a cause, or rather an excuse for the crisis. I do not think that they caused it.

[Question] Was not the prime minister's speech during the banquet held for Foreign Minister Kamil too sharp?

[Answer] This is a matter of interpretation. When we come to interpretation it is very important what the other party thinks and not what the party that speaks thinks. It is a fact that they said and thought that this speech was sharp. On the other hand, this should be considered from a different angle altogether. This banquet, after all, was not a cocktail party. Also before that, the foreign minister had given a statement which no doubt was sharp. He repeated As-Sadat's positions made in the Knesset word for word. It was the first opportunity for the prime minister to talk, and therefore he reacted, dwelling on a single point of fact. He dwelt on the point of self-determination [last two words in English]. Therefore, it is hard for me to give you an answer on this. The important thing is what the other party says. The other party says it feels that it was sharp. However, it should be viewed from an overall perspective. Whatever the opinion though, in my opinion, as I have already told you, I do not for a minute believe that this or that speech or remarks were the reason that led to the decision, provided that the Egyptians did not want to stop the talks at this stage.

[Question] We should not have been overconcessional...

[Answer] Look, the problem first and foremost is tactical. The question is what we are ready for. I believe that there is nothing further to talk of regarding Sinai. We can, of course, talk about the precise status of the settlements. I do not want to get into details now. We have gone quite far. There can be further arguments as to where the lines of the limited forces zones, etc should pass. However, basically [regarding major principles] there is no further argument. Regarding the West Bank, the autonomy plan per se is not a proposal according to the platform of the Democratic Movement for Change [DMC]. Nonetheless, the entire DMC supported this move since the proposal includes a certain thing that is, in my opinion, a basis for negotiations. It is impossible to solve this at the moment if every party achieves what it wants or if only one party achieves what it wants.

It is clear that the key to the entire argument is the problem of sovereignty over the West Bank. The moment that the prime minister--and none other than this prime minister belongs to a party whose views are well known--proposed that he is prepared to leave the question of sovereignty open, regardless of what he means, this gives the opportunity to every party to come out and say: Yes, the problem is open and I will try to achieve what I want. I do not see any other practical, nondeclarative, basis for negotiations.

[Question] Maybe everything has been overdramatic, Professor Yadin. President as-Sadat has indeed imposed this style but we have pursued it...

[Answer] Maybe. Look, at the beginning As-Sadat's visit constituted a shock. It was a move that consisted of all possible dramatic ingredients. It had its effect. We had to repay him in a manner whereby he would understand that we also appreciated it. I believe that what we did for As-Sadat at the time, including the reception at Lod airport by the IDF guard of honor, the entire affair in the Knesset, was in fact requested by him. This was what he wanted and it clearly enhanced the dramatization. Today, looking back, I do not believe that this dramatization was the thing that brought about any decision. It did cause one thing though: If people after As-Sadat's visit, as part of the general euphoria, thought that the Messiah's days have arrived and that peace would come in a few days, it is clear that because of the great dramatization, they were greatly disappointed. This may be characteristic of all peoples, but perhaps most strongly so of Israel that people shift from the high peak of hope to a deep pit of disappointment. It has happened to us and I suggest that from now on we will judge things in a more balanced manner, that we have strong nerves. I cannot even give you an answer. I cannot tell you if As-Sadat's step was a tactic or significant. We must have strong nerves, not overreact, consider things thoroughly, examine both the tendency of the Egyptians and our tendency.

[Question] AL-AHRAM's editor told me this week that we were going to miss a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity since the Israeli Government is still thinking in terms it entertained prior to As-Sadat's visit...

[Answer, interrupting] This is the main problem. Look, let us leave the Likud and the prime minister aside for a moment. Suppose the Alinement were in power today. The Alinement would come and say: These are our positions--take Allon's plan, for example. I promise you, without a shadow of doubt, that the Egyptians and AL-AHRAM's editor would have come and said: Israel still insists on its positions. The argument here pertains to the core of the problem: whether or not the Egyptians and Arabs are ready to make peace without deciding on the sovereignty of the West Bank right now. Since most of us would not be ready to make peace now if this meant that, we now have to decide on a Palestinian state, possibly--this is the question, this is the heart of the problem.

[Question] This is in fact the question this evening, Professor Yadin. What will happen?

[Answer] Let me tell you. I think as follows: On Sunday we will know whether the military talks will be resumed. The government took a well-considered decision despite the extremely heavy feelings resulting from this sudden callback and departure in the middle of things, a decision that we will consider the proposal to resume the military talks. I hope that As-Sadat's speech tomorrow will not aggravate the problem since if a speech by someone here carries significance for the Arabs, then As-Sadat's speech may also have an effect here. If the negotiations are resumed, I can say only one thing: I am sure that this [peace] will not be attained quickly. The negotiations ahead will be long.

[Question] Professor Yadin, do you adequately participate in these negotiations?

[Answer] Yes. I must say that despite my preoccupation with domestic problems, I have been a full partner in all stages since As-Sadat's arrival in Israel. Now, during last week, when things reached the ministerial level, I participated in all decisive meetings. As previously mentioned, I met, at the Egyptians' request, with the Egyptian foreign minister and others. The day-by-day negotiations over formulations and positions is the duty of the foreign minister, no doubt, provided that the decisions are taken by the government and that nothing is being decided--and it has been like this so far--without its first being presented before the government or the ministerial committee for defense affairs. In this respect, the answer to your question is positive.

[Question] We were talking on the way here and the driver who drove us said that it is not at all felt that Yiga'el Yadin is the deputy prime minister. This may be an opinion which others also share.

[Answer] This is a different matter. I have a problem. I deal with domestic and social problems 4 days a week. Yesterday I visited the Jerusalem slums for 5 hours, and I have not seen a mention of this--in the press I read, at least. This is not considered news. This is not no news [last two words in English]. If I met with Vance even for 5 minutes yesterday, this would have certainly been shown on television and elsewhere. This is my problem. I should possibly find a way to make my share felt. I certainly feel that I fulfill my duty. I also recognize the fact the people think so.

[Question] I am asking you about your status also because the DMC entered the government in order to exert influence in a certain direction. Are you satisfied with the degree of its influence?

[Answer] Look, when we entered the government, I knew that we had four ministers and that the prime minister heads a government which is basically made up of his party. Neither I nor anybody else deluded himself that we would dictate anything to the government. Exert influence? Yes. I think that our ministers take part in the meetings, contribute to the discussions about these problems. From the viewpoint of domestic problems--the justice minister deals with introducing order in the legislative system, with proposals regarding legislation of important laws such as the election system law or the parties' law. Me'ir 'Amit is certainly doing his part in the field of transportation. The labor and social betterment minister is surely tackling the heart of the problem to which I am close. I also work as head of the ministerial committee for social welfare. One thing should not be forgotten: We have only been in the cabinet for 2 and a 1/2 months, of which a full month was devoted to problems connected with As-Sadat's initiative. I believe that we make our contribution.

[Question] What really happens in the DMC? I had difficulty understanding your row. Is the DMC in the process of being divided?

[Answer] It is hard to answer this question. I do not think that there will be a split. There may be--and I hope not--a withdrawal of several personalities. The DMC as such still exists and is not splitting.

[Question] How many personalities should withdraw for us to call this a split?

[Answer] Look, if people withdraw from a party against an ideological background, I would call this a split. Although I hear and read here and there that there is an ideological breach, I firmly deny this. There is no ideological breach. I do not know of a difference in ideology between me and Amnon Rubinstein and Stef Wertheimer.

[Question] What about Virshubski?

[Answer] I think that there are differences, from the political point of view, also between him and friends of his that intend to withdraw. A party is not a monolithic body after all. This may be the good thing about the DMC--that there are various personages here, that there is a collection of serious people here which means that there is a collection of various views here. I believe that the common denominator is as strong as ever. I personally do not see any reason for these decisions [to resign on the part of several members]. There are surely arguments about the regulations and management of the faction itself. This is an entirely different matter. If there are indeed problems, we should sit down and examine things. We have the bodies for that. I personally do not see a reason for the decision of my friends, if it is indeed made, to resign. We will make further efforts, today and in the course of the week, to sit down, talk things over and listen to the reasons. I believe that the DMC is playing an important role and will still have to do so in the coming 2 or 3 years.

JERUSALEM SEEKS NEW WAY TO CONTINUE TALKS

TA2217592 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Jan 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Yosef Harif]

[Text] According to the report by the U.S. assistant secretary of state, Alfred Atherton, to Prime Minister Menahem Begin last night at his home in Jerusalem, it appears that the president of Egypt, Anwar as-Sadat, is prepared for a continuation of what was called by him the "peace process," but at this stage nothing clear has been reported about the way in which the talks will continue in the framework of the "Political Committee."

In its session today the cabinet will hear a report from the prime minister and the foreign minister about the latest developments, including the speech by the president of Egypt and will decide on the question of the continuation of Israel's participation in the Military Committee in Cairo and also the method and the framework concerning the renewal of the political talks.

It is already clear now that whatever the framework, it will not be similar to that of the "Hilton talks" which were stopped suddenly by President as-Sadat. In the talk with the prime minister yesterday no "defined framework" was determined as a substitute for the Political Committee but, in accordance with the prime minister's instructions, it was possible to understand that Israel would like to keep the parallel debates. If the talks of the Military Committee take place in Cairo, it is thought advisable that the discussions in the political sphere be held in Jerusalem as well.

Before Mr Atherton's meeting with the prime minister and the foreign minister, U.S. elements tried to "prepare" Jerusalem for President as-Sadat's speech when they said that an aggressive speech was to be expected, but it should not necessarily be "taken too seriously." Thus they tried to hint that despite the aggressiveness of As-Sadat's speech, there was an Egyptian trend to leave the door open for a continuation of the contacts.

The trend in Jerusalem with regard to the continuation of the Military Committee talks is, generally speaking, positive. Those who are in favor of continuation claim that Israel cannot reject the Egyptian proposal to discuss matters in the framework of the Military Committee. If it does not, this will not be understood by world public opinion, since even in the framework called the "Military Committee" discussions of a political nature are being held and, at any rate, the practical issues are actually analyzed in the Military Committee, while the Political Committee was mainly intended to give a formulation and political character to the conclusions in Cairo. Secondly, it would not be desirable for Israel to close the pipeline of direct contacts with Egypt.

Nevertheless, from various statements at the end of the week, including remarks made by the prime minister in the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, it appears that if the president of Egypt continues to behave with the same aggressiveness which has characterized his statements over the past few days, there is no chance of progress, since what President as-Sadat is now demanding is nothing other than a complete giving way--a retreat to the 1967 borders and the establishment of a Palestinian state--and this, the prime minister said, will never be.

EGYPTIANS SAY TALKS MIGHT RESUME IN WASHINGTON

TA221947Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 22 Jan 78 p 1 TA

[By Yehuda Litani and Ze'ev Schiff in Cairo, 21 January]

[Excerpt] After the talk held on Friday by the U.S. secretary of state, Mr Cyrus Vance, with President Anwar as-Sadat, informed sources here [in Cairo] told us that there might be a possibility of renewing the Political Committee's discussions in Washington. The same sources added that the Americans thought that transferring the talks to Washington would be likely to bring a new turn to the discussions.

Political discussions between Egypt and Israel in Washington are, it is reported, likely to give the Americans the advantage of being able to use pressure whenever they want to. The Americans consider the possibility of the influence of Jewish-U.S. public opinion on the committee's discussions, if they are in fact held in Washington, as an additional advantage.

The same sources reported that at the meeting between As-Sadat and Vance on Friday, the possibility was also discussed of a tripartite meeting between President Jimmy Carter, President as-Sadat and Prime Minister Menahem Begin.

Political sources in Cairo reported yesterday that even before the departure of the Egyptian delegation for the Political Committee talks in Jerusalem, the Egyptians had planned to leave the committee discussions after 3-4 days if Israel were not--in their view--ready to make significant concessions.

Senior elements in the Egyptian administration did not know until the last moment about President as-Sadat's instructions to the delegation in Jerusalem to return to Cairo at once. The Americans, through their ambassador in Cairo, were not informed about this decision and the Americans reportedly feel they have been insulted.

WEIZMAN TO LEAVE FOR VISIT TO UNITED STATES

TA230622Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Jan 78 TA

[Text] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman will leave for the United States on Thursday. Our correspondent Sara Frankel reports that the defense minister will deal with purchasing matters and will meet top ranking people at the Pentagon and the U.S. administration. This will be the first official visit made by the defense minister to the United States on matters of his ministry since he entered office. Our correspondent points out that, if it appears there is room to renew the military talks in Cairo this week, the defense minister will go to the United States at the beginning of next week at the latest.

BUGGING OF EGYPTIAN DELEGATION'S ROOMS DENIED

TA221921Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Jan 78 TA

[Text] The Foreign Ministry spokesman has categorically denied a report published in the Egyptian magazine OCTOBER to the effect that listening devices were hidden in the rooms of the Egyptian delegation and in the rooms of the [Egyptian] journalists in the Hilton Hotel in Jerusalem.

OCTOBER reported that the devices were discovered by Egyptian security men and the discovery caused a fierce verbal exchange between them and Israeli security men. As mentioned, the Foreign Ministry spokesman in Jerusalem categorically denied this report.

SOURCES VIEW AS-SADAT SPEECH; TAMIR STAYS IN CAIRO

TA222014Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Jan 78 TA

[Text] Our correspondent Elimelekh Ram reports on the cabinet's decision to postpone the continuation of the military committee talks.

[Ram--live] The government's announcement is moderately worded in an attempt not to widen the rift with Egypt while at the same time maintaining Israel's honor. There is a clear attempt here to take the initiative out of As-Sadat's hands, namely, that Israel will decide if, when and under which conditions it will agree to the resumption of the Military Committee discussions. There is no slamming of the door here. The door remains open for the continuation of the negotiations.

Sources in Jerusalem view As-Sadat's speech yesterday as an attempt to drive a wedge inside the government. After the Egyptians tried to appeal to the people in Israel over the government's head, As-Sadat yesterday tried to bring about a confrontation between 'Ezer Weizman and Menahem Begin. As is well known, As-Sadat referred Begin to Weizman as a proof that even before the Ismailia conference he had expressed his opposition to the settlements in the Rafah approaches.

Circles in Jerusalem said today that the prime minister tried to conceal the issue of settlements but that the leaks brought it into the press headlines and were one of the causes for the escalation [of tension] surrounding the negotiations.

Defense Ministry sources reported this evening that Maj Gen Avraham Tamir and the members of the Military Committee team will remain in Cairo at this stage.

Tomorrow afternoon, the prime minister will explain in the Knesset Israel's position in reply to As-Sadat's speech and will clarify the chances for direct contacts between Israel and Egypt.

LUXEMBOURG PREMIER DISCUSSES MEETING WITH BEGIN

TA221715Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 22 Jan 78 TA

[From the afternoon newsreel]

[Text] Luxembourg's prime minister, Gaston Thorn, met with Prime Minister Begin and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan in the morning. Thorn is an important European statesman despite the small size of his country. At the meeting the prime minister told Thorn that Israel will do its best to prevent escalation in the Middle East situation. Mr Begin also requested that the European countries limit their involvement in our region.

In a press conference today on the occasion of the convening of the executive of the liberal international, presided over by Thorn, Thorn said that he expects the talks between Egypt to be resumed. [begin recording]

[Unidentified correspondent] Luxembourg's prime minister believes that the momentum toward peace begun by As-Sadat's visit in Israel will continue. Following his meeting with the prime mininster and the foreign minister, he thinks that the talks will continue.

[Thorn--in English], I believe it, I hope it. What I heard from Prime Minister Begin--I am not authorized to say what he told me; he told me certainly nothing very special, but anyhow...

[Unidentified correspondent--interrupting, translating Thorn's remarks into Hebrew] Thorn says that he thinks and hopes that [the contact] will continue. He adds that after his talk with the prime minister and foreign minister, although they did not tell him anything special, he is all the more certain that there is willingness to continue the talks on this side. Thorn says that he quietly asked the prime minister and foreign minister to do their best to have the talks continued. Mr Thorn refused to speak about the position of the liberals in Europe concerning disputed issues in the negotiations--the Palestinian issue and the question of settlements. In his opinion, in the course of negotiations, when all call for the avoidance of declarations, it is pointless for him to present his views. However, on the general attitude of Europe he says:

[Thorn--in English] I remember there was a time when it was said in part of the world's press that Europe was unconditionally always on the side of Israel. Now you say the contrary.

[Unidentified correspondent--interrupting, translating Thorn's remarks into Hebrew and continuing] ...However, Thorn says that the concern in Europe about the Middle East problem is unchanged. He says that it is felt, especially in his country, that Israel must have secure borders. [end recording]

HA'AREZ: AL-JAMASI REITERATES INVITATION TO WEIZMAN

TA231106Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 23 Jan 78 p 1 TA

[By Ze'ev Schiff and Yehuda Litani, HA'AREZ correspondents in Cairo]

[Text] Cairo, 22 (by telephone)--General al-Madjub, chairman of Egypt's National Security Council, expressed regret yesterday, in the name of Egypt's war minister, Al-Jamasi, about the Israeli cabinet decision to postpone the departure of the Israeli delegation for further discussions of the Military Committee. General al-Jamasi wished to inform Israel's defense minister, Mr 'Ezer Weizman, that the invitation for him, his wife and son to visit Egypt is still valid and that he can come with his family to visit with no connection whatever with the committee deliberations.

The Egyptian war minister's associates heard the Israeli decision to postpone the departure of the delegation with amazement. Some expressed the view that this was a wrong decision since the Military Committee, contrary to the political one, conducted its work cordially regardless of the differences of opinion. They were especially interested to learn whether the postponement was for only a few days or for a longer period, as they are aware that Mr Weizman plans to go to the United States at the end of the week.

MORNING PAPERS REACT TO AS-SADAT'S SPEECH

NC2209402 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 22 Jan 78 NC

[Review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] First, here are the reactions to As-Sadat's speech as reflected in the editorial headlines: DAVAR--"The Weapons Integrated Within the Peace Efforts"; 'AL HAMISHMAR--"The Doors Are Not Closed"; HA'AREZ--"As-Sadat's Path to a Deadlock"; Jerusalem POST--"And Now, Onto Quiet Diplomacy."

DAVAR writes that the speech has not greatly facilitated the success of the peace efforts, which deteriorated when the Egyptian-Israeli negotiators were unilaterally suspended. Certainly, Israel cannot continue to accept dictates from Cairo. Nor can it content itself with Cairo's proposals for security arrangements on both sides of the international borders. However, despite this, it is possible to be consoled by the fact that the lid has not been put on the negotiations and that President as-Sadat still adheres to his announcement that the October war was the last. The paper adds that there is no basis for the idea of a balance in arms supplies to Egypt and Israel. It is to be hoped that legislators in the U.S. Congress will continue to adhere to their stand of granting abundant economic aid to Egypt, but not arms supplies.

'AL HAMISHMAR says that the important point in the Egyptian president's speech was the emphasis that the peace initiative will go on. Furthermore, a soothing note was present in his speech concerning east Jerusalem, which he did not mention at all, and concerning the future of Judaea and Samaria and the settlement of the Palestinian problem. The paper adds that it is not being tedious to repeat that the regrettable deterioration in relations will pass away, irrespective of whether this deterioration is the result of apprehension over extremist elements in each camp or from other motivations. Peace must win out and for the sake of peace it is worth it for each side to make sacrifices and to display wisdom, tolerance and self-control.

HA'AREZ notes that the Egyptian president yesterday said that the door for continuing the negotiations remains open. However, the conditions which he set for keeping this door open gives the impression that what As-Sadat actually wants is to confront Israel with two alternatives: Either the Israeli Defense Forces evacuate all the administered territories and Israel accept Egypt's solution for the Palestinian problem or the door for the negotiations will be closed. The paper adds that it would be desirable for the U.S. leadership to make it clear to the Egyptian president that his path will lead to a deadlock. Israel will be very sorry if the political process which it entered with such enthusiasm runs into a stone wall. But it is not in Israel's power to eliminate the obstacles which Egypt has placed in its path.

HAZOFE believes that Israel's interest in the resumption of the peace negotiations and in saving its honor should be reflected in the decisions which the Israeli Government adopts. These decisions should not make it appear as if we are carried away by As-Sadat's ups and downs. President As-Sadat should also be told that he should decide between adopting a style of diktats, which will be utterly rejected, and adopting a style of negotiations. Before the talks between Israel and Egypt are resumed, there must be an unequivocal agreement that from now on the negotiations will be free from sudden disruptions and that they will continue after the conclusion of clarifications between the two sides.

The Jerusalem POST writes that the government should today decide to resume the deliberations of the Military Committee in Cairo. It should also decide to stop the excessive public diplomacy which has been going on so far and to hold quieter, more discreet talks.

Afternoon Press Comments

NC221015Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 22 Jan 78 NC

[Review of afternoon press editorials]

[Text] Under the headline "'Ezer Weizman Should Stay Home," YEDI'OT AHARONOT writes that As-Sadat's speech yesterday demands far-reaching decisions from us. We are not demanding that the government adopt decisions within a few hours' time, but it should adopt one decision immediately: to defer the date for resuming the Military Committee talks. This is because there is no point in the Military Committee's functioning without the other committee's functioning. Nor is there any point in the Political Committee's resuming its talks under the conditions that were created yesterday when As-Sadat determined in advance the decisions of this committee, leaving the committee with the privilege of ratifying them.

MA'ARIV also expresses the opinion that it is difficult to see the point in the resumption of contacts if Egypt's president has determined that even if Israel returns 99.9 percent of the territories, he will still say that this is not enough. In the paper's opinion, even if the negotiations are resumed with Washington's mediation, they cannot succeed if there is no Egyptian willingness to discuss compromises, territorial and otherwise.

KNESSET MEMBERS PROPOSE MASS SETTLEMENTS

NC220750Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 22 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Three Knesset members, Hayyim Drukman, Ge'ula Kohen and Moshe Shamir, have submitted an urgent motion for the agenda demanding that the government, in the wake of the collapse of the talks, announce that the political plan submitted by Israel to Egypt in the negotiations is no longer valid. The Knesset members say that now is the time to establish mass settlements in the land of Israel.

Knesset Member Moshe 'Ammar from the MAPAM Party, on the other hand, has submitted a motion for the agenda concerning the need for new moves to bring about the resumption of negotiations. In his motion he says that up to now both sides have made mistakes and that now new ideas, new moves and new initiatives are necessary in order to maintain the momentum of negotiations.

BANGLADESH

INDIAN DELEGATION ARRIVES IN DACCA FOR FARAKKA TALKS

BK211121Y Delhi ISI in English 0833 GMT 21 Jan 78 BK

[Text] Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Surjit Singh Barnala arrived in Dacca January 20 from Delhi to attend the first meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission beginning there January 21, reports SAMACHAR. The commission will carry out investigations and study all schemes relating to the augmentation of the dry season flows of the Ganges, as envisaged in the Farakka agreement between the two countries signed here in November last year.

On his arrival in Dacca Barnala told newsmen that the commission was meeting after a very long time, adding that he hoped the meeting would be "fruitful".

When asked to comment on British Prime Minister James Callaghan's offer of experts for water resources development in the region, Barnala said that both India and Bangladesh had experts. He however added: "If we need them we will call them."

Barnala was received at the airport by his counterpart, B.M Abbas, presidential adviser for water resources and flood control. The Indian high commissioner in Dacca, K.P.S. Menon, and Bangladesh officials were also present.

Earlier, before departing from New Delhi, Barnala, who heads an 8-member Indian delegation to the talks, told newsmen at the airport that the talks in the 3-day meeting would be mainly preliminary in nature. "I am going with good hopes to make a good start." He was sure that he would have "useful talks" in Dacca.

In reply to a question Barnala said the upgrading of the chairmanship of the commission would help accelerate its work as it would be possible for the chairmen to take on-the-spot decisions.

Members of delegation include C.C. Patel, irrigation secretary; M. Dubey, joint secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs; K.V. Rama Rao, member of the Joint Rivers Commission; and R. Rangachari, joint commissioner in the Department of Irrigation.

Since its inception, 13 meetings of the commission were held. Following the signing of the Indo-Bangladesh agreement on the sharing of the Ganges waters at Farakka on November 5, 1977, the commission has been asked to carry out investigations and study all schemes relating to the augmentation of the dry season flows of the Ganges.

The decision to upgrade the chairmanship of the commission was taken during the visit of the president of Bangladesh in India last month.

PRC TRADE DELEGATION ARRIVES IN DACCA 20 JAN

BK201542Y Dacca Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 20 Jan 78 BK

[Text] A five-member Chinese trade delegation arrived in Dacca today to discuss further promotion of trade relations with Bangladesh. The delegation is led by a vice minister for foreign trade, Mr Cheng To-pin. It is expected to sign a trade protocol during its 6-day stay in Bangladesh.

Talks Begin

BK211722Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 21 Jan 78 BK

[Text] At the first session of the bilateral trade talks in Dacca today, officials of Bangladesh and China agreed in principle to increase the volume of trade between the two countries under the proposed barter protocol. The increase in the annual barter trade was agreed upon keeping in view the implementation of the existing protocol and the possibilities of development and the reciprocation of bilateral trade.

The Bangladesh side was headed by the commerce secretary while the leader of the visiting Chinese trade delegation, Mr Cheng To-pin led his country's delegation at the talks.

ZIA EXPECTED TO ATTEND SYDNEY COMMONWEALTH MEETING

BK201714Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0801 GMT 20 Jan 78 BK

[Text] Dacca, Jan 20 (AFP)--Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman will attend the first regional meeting of Commonwealth heads of government scheduled to begin on February 13 in Sydney, it was reliably learnt here today.

The regional meeting to be attended by leaders of Asian and Pacific Commonwealth countries was called by Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser in November last year.

Informed sources here said the 4-day meeting, to include a 2-day plenary session, was expected to cover international and Commonwealth matters of interest to the region, regional economic and functional cooperation and international economic issues.

The Australian prime minister extended invitations to Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Malaysia, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Tonga and Western Samoa to attend the proposed regional conference. Commonwealth Secretary General Mr Ramphal was also invited by Mr Fraser, and he had accepted the invitation, the sources said.

President Ziaur Rahman, who is expected to leave here for Sydney on February 11, will be accompanied by his Foreign Affairs Adviser Prof Shamsul Haq.

NEPAL

SUPREME COURT REJECTS WRIT TO FREE KOIRALA

BK191523Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1331 GMT 19 Jan 78 BK

[Text] Katmandu, Jan 19 (AFP)--The Supreme Court of Nepal today rejected the habeas corpus petition filed by Miss Silaja Acharya on the detention of former Prime Minister Mr B.P. Koirala.

The Supreme Court divisional bench consisting of Justice Dhanendra Bahadur Singh and Surendra Raj Singh rejected the writ petition of Miss Acharya, the niece of Mr Koirala, on the ground that she could not produce sufficient evidence about the state of Mr Koirala's health.

Justice Dhanendra Bahadur Singh, who headed the bench, read out the court's decision before the packed audience which included the former Speaker Mr K.P. Upadhaya, the righthand man of Mr Koirala.

The audience was calm and quiet and listened to the court's verdict without any visible reaction. The court rejected the contention taken by the petitioner that Mr Koirala was put into detention against the previous release order of the special tribunal with the condition that he (Koirala) would appear in person before the tribunal after the completion of medical treatment abroad.

The Supreme Court also held that the competent authority to handle the petition was the one-man special tribunal formed by the Nepalese Government to try Mr Koirala under the state offence cases. It added that the petitioner could have advanced the argument before the tribunal to prove her contention that Mr Koirala was not cured.

Mr Koirala was released by King Birendra on June 7 to enable him to go to the United States for treatment pending the seven state offence cases against him till his return. Mr Koirala was arrested by the local police soon after his arrival here on November 8 after undergoing medical treatment.

PAKISTAN

ROMANIAN FINANCE MINISTER MEETS WITH INDUSTRIES ADVISER

BK211542Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 21 Jan 78 BK

[Text] The Romanian finance minister, Mr Florea Dumitrescu, called on the Adviser on industries and construction, retired Lt Gen Mohammad Habibullah Khan, in Islamabad today. He was accompanied by the Romanian deputy minister for building and machine industry, Mr Cornel Pinzaru and the Romanian ambassador. They discussed matters of mutual interest to the two countries.

Economic Agreements Signed

BK220808Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 21 Jan 78 BK

[Text] Pakistan and Romania have signed in Islamabad today an agreement for the protection and guarantee of investment capital in the two countries. The two countries also signed a separate agreement for the avoidance of double taxation of income between them.

Meanwhile, the Romania-Pakistan governmental commission will continue its deliberations in Islamabad tomorrow on other matters. A protocol for the implementation of programs of cooperation in the economic, scientific and cultural fields is expected to be concluded at the end of the commission's meeting.

BRIEFS

POLISH NAVAL CHIEF VISITS INDIA--Vice Admiral Ludwik Janczyszyn, commander in chief, the Polish Navy, who arrived in New Delhi January 20 on a 7-day visit, called on President Neelam Sanjevea Reddy late in the day. Earlier on arrival at the airport, he was received by Admiral Jal Cursetji, chief of the naval staff; Mrs Navaz Cursetji and senior naval officers at the naval headquarters. Later the Polish naval chief called on the chief of the naval staff, Minister of State for Defense Professor Sher Singh and Minister of State for External Affairs Samarendra Kundu. He met the defence secretary, Gian Prakash, and also laid a wreath at Amar Jyoti. Admiral Cursetji presented the steering wheel of INS Godavari to the visiting Polish admiral as a symbol of friendship between the navies of Poland and India when the latter called on him. INS Godavari, ex-HMS Bedale before it transfer to the Indian Navy in 1953, saw service with the Polish Navy from 1942 to 1946 as Orp Slazaka. Admiral Janczyszyn leaves on January 21 for Agra, Aurangabad, Bombay and Kharakvasla. He will return to Delhi on January 25 to witness the Republic Day parade on January 26. [Delhi ISI in English 1448 GMT 21 Jan 78 BK]

UK FUNDS TO PAKISTAN--Britain is to give Pakistan 8.6 million pounds sterling to finance part of the project in the Punjab for improving water use and controlling salinity in the irrigated areas. The total cost of the entire program for which Britain is providing aid is 100 million pounds. The project is being financed by the International Development Association of the World Bank, West Germany and Pakistan. [Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 20 Jan 78 BK]

PAKISTAN TELEPHONE PROJECT--Pekistan will be connected with the rest of the world through an international direct dialing telephone system by the middle of next year. This was stated by the federal communications secretary in an interview with PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL. He said equipment for the project was being manufactured in Japan and will reach Pakistan some time by the end of this year. He said an exchange of 6,000 lines would be constructed at Lahore. It is expected to start working by June next year. [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 20 Jan 78 BK]

IMF LOAN TO SRI LANKA--Sri Lanka will receive 2 billion rupees loan from the International Monetary Fund for economic development and to supplement the balance of payments. The minister of finance and planning told a news conference that this loan will be received as a result of talks held in Washington. A World Bank team will arrive in Sri Lanka on 29 January. The finance minister added that there is possibility of receiving more assistance early next year. [Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 Jan 78 BK]

AIR CEYLON CLOSURE--Colombo, Jan 22 (AFP)--Sri Lanka's national carrier, Air Ceylon, will close down from the end of March, Aviation Ministry sources said. Air Ceylon, one of the oldest airlines in Asia, established 30 years ago, will be replaced by two new air companies in which the government will hold 51 percent shares and the balance 49 will go to the private sector. One of these two new ventures, named the Sri Lanka Airways Ltd., will operate domestic and near-regional services to South India and Maldives. The other, to be called Sri Lanka International Airways Ltd., will operate the international services. Legislation now being drafted to establish these two ventures will be presented to Parliament shortly, the sources said. They said Air Ceylon was being closed down as it was running at a loss. Its international services were stopped last December on the orders of the prime minister. At present a commission is inquiring into the working of Air Ceylon during the period of the last government from 1970 to 1977. The employees of Air Ceylon will be absorbed into the two new ventures, the sources said. [Text] [Hong Kong AFP in English 0515 GMT 22 Jan 78 BK]

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